

Santa Catalina Trail Plan



Coronado National Forest | November 2022



Draft for Public Feedback

A Thank You to our Partners

Thank you to our partners and community organizers who were instrumental in assisting the Coronado National Forest through the development of the Santa Catalina Trail Plan.

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Santa Catalina Ranger District and the Supervisor's Office
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Project Purpose and Need

The Santa Catalina Ranger District of the Coronado National Forest (CNF) is an important community asset, natural landscape, and cultural resource. It contains over 265,000 acres of rugged sky island canyons and mountains at the edge of the growing Tucson metropolitan area.

The district contains 250 miles of trails including the Arizona National Scenic Trail (ANST). These trails are predominantly open to non-motorized uses including hiking, mountain biking, running, horseback riding, hunting, and rock climbing with a smaller share of the system available for motorized use. Although trail use is the leading recreation activity on the CNF, a holistic trail planning effort for the district has never been completed. The *Draft Santa Catalina Trail Plan* provides a collaborative framework for maintaining, enhancing, and expanding the area's trail network.

The trail plan seeks to respond to evolving trail use patterns driven by population growth, shifting visitor preferences, and recreation technology. Key trends include increased recreation use during and following the pandemic, growing popularity of mountain biking and rock climbing, and a more prominent role for outdoor recreation in the local tourism economy.

The robust use of trails, especially on Mount Lemmon, along the Catalina Highway and at the accessible base of the Santa Catalinas, has led to some undesirable outcomes including trail degradation, conflicts between users, and the creation of unauthorized trails. In many locations, existing trailheads and trail access points are insufficient or not legally secured. The current trail system provides limited opportunities for beginners or those with mobility limitations. Additionally, the Bighorn Fire of 2020 impacted more than half of the trail system, altering recreation settings, and compounding the challenge of trail maintenance.

The purpose of this project is to create a system of trails that will be ecologically, economically, and socially sustainable. It seeks to make that system a reality through thoughtful planning and open collaboration with partners and the community.

Geographic Scope

The geographic scope of this plan is all Santa Catalina Ranger District trails and trailheads. Direction from previous planning efforts for Sabino Canyon Recreation Area (Sabino Canyon Concept Plan, 2015), Catalina State Park (Catalina State Park Master Development Plan, 2021), and Redington Pass (Collaborative Area Management Plan, 2016) have been incorporated into the trail plan.



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What the Plan Is and Is Not

The *Santa Catalina Trail Plan* is a framework for identifying and prioritizing trail and trail access projects as well as regular trail stewardship. It is an aspirational, conceptual-level plan that helps the US Forest Service and our partners efficiently improve the visitor experience in the busiest portion of the CNF. The plan serves as a connection between the forest plan and site specific projects. Projects described in this plan are conceptual only; specific locations and trail alignments may change as projects are fully analyzed for their environmental impacts under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The plan is not a proposed action under the National Environmental Policy Act or a formal decision. All projects will be fully analyzed for their effects to cultural and natural resources before they are implemented.

The plan itself is intended to provide program guidance for 15 years but may be updated or adjusted at the discretion of the Santa Catalina District Ranger based on new information, including the pace and scale of implementation.

Project Approach and Values

The project was launched in 2021 with a commitment to collaboration and transparency. The project is rooted in the five US Forest Service values captured in [This is Who We Are](#):

Service | Interdependence | Conservation | Diversity | Safety

The plan was crafted through the direct input of community partners, recreation users, volunteers, and residents. We wish to express our appreciation to the Arizona Trail Association, Pima County, Pinal County, County Line Riders, Tucson Saddle Club, Southern Arizona Hiking Club, Tucson Off-Road Cyclists and Activists, American Conservation Experience, Climbing Association of Southern Arizona, Arizona Game and Fish Department, and others who helped develop the recommendations contained within this plan.

Throughout the planning process and upcoming implementation, the US Forest Service strives to respect our shared heritage and the unique sky island environment.



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History and Significance

People have been using the Santa Catalina and Rincon Mountains for centuries. The Tohono O’odham and their ancestors lived in the lower elevations and visited the peaks and forested areas of the mountains long before Spanish, Mexican, and Anglo settlers arrived in the region. Plants and animals of the mountains supplemented crops grown along the Santa Cruz River, and springs in the mountains were vital places.

Representatives of the Four Southern Tribes have indicated that they consider the Santa Catalina Mountains to be a traditional cultural property. Numerous other tribes including the Hopi, Zuni, and Apache tribes claim the area as an important place.

The current recreational trail system is based, in part, on historical routes used for hunting, gathering, and spiritual purposes. Later, trails were developed for transportation and firefighting, especially before the construction of the Control Road in 1920 and the Catalina Highway in the 1950’s. Box Camp, Soldier, and Knagge trails are all known to have been used as historical access routes.

The routing of the Arizona National Scenic Trail through the district, while more recent, is another important milestone that helped link the trail from Mexico to Utah and earned its National Scenic Trail status in 2009. A variety of trail segments and connections are associated with the development of the ANST.



Agency Policy and Direction

There is a wide foundation of laws, regulations and policies that guide recreation and trail management planning on National Forest System (NFS) lands. Other documents provide strategic guidance. Below are the most relevant for this plan.

Coronado National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, 2018

This plan (referred to as the “forest plan”) provides formal guidance for management of the CNF. Forest plan decisions include six main elements: desired conditions, objectives,

Tanque Verde Canyon as seen from the planned viewpoint in the Tanque Verde Falls Recreation Enhancement Project



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standards, guidelines, the designation of special areas and management areas, the identification of management suitability, and monitoring and evaluation. Many of the forest plan decisions are relevant to the trail plan; the most important are included as an appendix to this document. Any projects identified in this document must be consistent with the forest plan.

Among the most critical of these is the classification of lands within the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS), which identifies the appropriate recreation settings and management activities through the district.

Forest Service Policy

US Forest Service policy, based on laws and regulations, is contained in agency manuals and handbooks. The most relevant to this project include:

- Forest Service Handbook 2309.13 Recreation Sites
- Forest Service Handbook 2309.18 Trails Management
- Forest Service Manual 2310 Sustainable Recreation Planning
- Forest Service Manual 7700 Travel Management
- Forest Service Handbook 2320 Wilderness Management

Coronado National Forest Sustainable Recreation Action Plan 2021 to 2025

This document includes a set of initiatives, actions, and best practices for the forest's recreation program. It identifies the Santa Catalina Ranger District as a top priority for trail and recreation planning.

National Strategy for a Sustainable Trail System, 2017

This document establishes a set of core values that will guide the behaviors and efforts of the agency and its partners. It also commits the Forest Service to act in six different areas to meet the challenges of achieving a sustainable trail system.

National Trail System Act of 1968

National Scenic Trails are continuous, extended routes of outdoor recreation within protected corridors. The Act was amended in 2009 to designate the Arizona National Scenic Trail, which travels through the planning area.

Wilderness Act of 1964

The Wilderness Act of 1964 defines wilderness as “an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.” The Act’s purpose is to preserve and protect the natural ecosystems and wild areas and provide opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. There are two designated wilderness areas in the Santa Catalina Ranger District – Pusch Ridge and Rincon Mountain wilderness areas.



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Endangered Species Act of 1973

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) is designed to protect species from extinction. It contains legal direction for the protection of species listed as threatened or endangered, including the development of recovery plans and the designation of critical habitat. The planning area contains habitat for numerous listed species. The most consequential of which is the Mexican Spotted Owl, which is present in much of the higher elevations of the Santa Catalinas. Along with the National Environmental Policy Act, the ESA is a key component of the environmental review process for any actions recommended in the trail plan.

Catalina Highway Scenic Values, Public Law 409

This law from 1946 establishes limitations on mining and timber management activity within 400 feet of the centerline of the Catalina Highway to protect scenic values.

Other Technical References

The team relied on several technical references including the Visitor Use Management Framework, prepared by the Interagency Visitor Use Management Council, and the Guidelines for a Quality Trail Experience, developed by the Bureau of Land Management. The team also referenced trails and open space master plans developed by Pima and Pinal Counties, along with the Statewide Comprehensive Recreation Plan and the Arizona Trails Plan 2020 both prepared by Arizona State Parks and Trails.



View towards Pusch Peak on the Linda Vista Trail



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Current Conditions

The Trail System

The planning area includes approximately 250 miles of National Forest System (NFS) trails. Nearly half (47%) are in the Pusch Ridge and Rincon Mountain wilderness areas.

The Arizona National Scenic Trail (ANST) forms the backbone of the trail system. Over 53 miles of the ANST traverse the district, or roughly 21% of the entire trail system. An additional 22.1 miles are recommended as an alternative route around the Pusch Ridge Wilderness for mountain bikes. The CNF has a strong relationship with the Arizona Trail Association that includes shared investment in trail maintenance and access.

Existing Trail System

Total	% Share of System
Wilderness	47%
Non-Wilderness	53%
Trail Class	
Class 5: highly developed, typically pavement or concrete	0.3%
Class 4: highly developed, trail is wide & relatively smooth	0.1%
Class 3: developed, trail is continuous & obvious	89.8%
Class 2: moderately developed, trail is narrow & rough	18.2%
Class 1: minimally developed, trail is intermittent & indistinct	0.2%
Congressional Designation	
Part of the Arizona National Scenic Trail	21%

Just under 6 miles of the trail are open to motorized use, primarily in the Redington Pass area. While half of the system is technically open to mountain bicycling, only 50 miles or approximately one fifth of the system is reasonably bikeable based on trail grade and location.

A full listing of the trail names, lengths, and classifications can be found in the Management Direction section below.



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Interpretive trail at Windy Point along Catalina Highway

Existing Trailheads and Parking Capacity

There are 23 improved, designated trailheads along the Catalina Highway that offer direct access to NFS trails. In total, these provide 328 parking spaces. Assuming 3 people per vehicle, these trailheads offer a cumulative total of 984 People at One Time (PAOT). This represents an increase of approximately 25% from 1998, prior to the full implementation of Catalina Highway improvement project. However, it only provides parking capacity for roughly one quarter of the average daily vehicle traffic as measured by Pima County. Many of these trailheads have been improved to offer paved parking, trash service, vault restrooms and some visitor information. While the highway itself is operated by Pima County Department of Transportation under an easement, recreational facilities are managed by the CNF. Some sites charge an \$8 per day standard amenity fee; these fees are critical in supporting operations and maintenance of these sites.

Numerous developed trailheads are located at the base of the mountains including Agua Caliente, Bear Canyon, Sabino Canyon, Ventana Canyon, Finger Rock, Pima Canyon, Catalina State Park, and Linda Vista. In total, these trailheads offer approximately 650 parking spaces offer a cumulative total of 1,950 PAOT. These trailheads feature a range of amenities and all, except for Sabino Canyon and Catalina State Park, are free.

Developed parking is limited elsewhere, such as Redington Pass, along the Control Road (NFSR#38), and Happy Valley. Parking in these areas is less constrained by topography and surrounding development. Despite this relatively robust capacity, several locations at all elevations can become overwhelmed and congested especially during the November to April high use season.



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Trailheads that Provide NFS Trail Access

Location	Vehicle Count	Fee Status	Notes
Soldier Trailhead (TH)	6	No Fee	Wilderness access
Babad Do'ag Scenic Overlook	17	No Fee	Vista; Parking for Babad Do'ag Trail; Wilderness access
Molino Canyon Vista Point	15	No Fee	Non-wilderness access
Molino Basin Picnic Area/TH	19	Fee	Restrooms; Parking: 10 fee, 7 ANST free, 2 trailer
Hirabayashi TH (front only)	15	No Fee	Restrooms; Fee campground; Primarily non-wilderness access
Lower Bug Spring TH	10	No Fee	Non-wilderness access
Lower Green Mt/Upper Bug TH	6	No Fee	Non-wilderness access
Chihuahua Pine Picnic Area	16	Fee	Restrooms and picnic sites; Non-wilderness access
Windy Point	33	No Fee	Restrooms; Non-wilderness access
Rose Canyon (outside gate)	16	No Fee	Parking: 10 paved/unlined, 6 unpaved/unlined in pullout
Rose Canyon (at lake)	40	Fee	Concession operated; Restrooms; Non-wilderness access
Green Mountain TH	10	No Fee	Non-wilderness access
San Pedro Vista Point	10	No Fee	Non-wilderness access
Bigelow TH	10	Fee	Restrooms; Potable water; Non-wilderness access
Palisades TH	4	No Fee	Wilderness access
Palisades Visitor Center	10	Fee	Restrooms; Potable water; Non-wilderness access
Box Camp TH	10	No Fee	Wilderness access
Butterfly TH	14	Fee	Restrooms; Non-wilderness access



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Location	Vehicle Count	Fee Status	Notes
Sunset TH	10	No Fee	Non-wilderness access
Red Ridge TH	3	No Fee	Non-wilderness access
Summit TH	13	No Fee	Primarily non-wilderness access
Summit Storage Area at Radio Ridge	10	No Fee	Non-wilderness access
Marshall Gulch (lot across bridge)	8	Fee	Restrooms; Wilderness and non-wilderness access
Marshall Gulch (small lot)	6	Fee	Restrooms; Wilderness and non-wilderness access
Marshall Gulch (main lot)	15	Fee	Restrooms; Wilderness and non-wilderness access

Total Trailhead Parking 326

Other Day Use Developed Parking

Location	Vehicle Count	Fee Status	Notes
Thimble Peak Vista Point	10	No Fee	Vista
Seven Cataracts Vista Point	10	No Fee	Vista
Cypress Picnic Area	8	Fee	Restrooms; Picnic sites
Middle Bear Picnic Area	8	Fee	Restrooms; Picnic sites
Manzanita Vista Point	5	No Fee	Vista
Geology Vista Point	8	No Fee	Vista
Hoodoo Vista Point	5	No Fee	Vista



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Location	Vehicle Count	Fee Status	Notes
Sycamore Vista Point	10	No Fee	Vista
Aspen Vista Point	16	No Fee	Vista
Inspiration Rock Picnic Area	20	Fee	Restrooms; Picnic sites
Box Elder Picnic Area	10	Fee	Restrooms; Picnic sites
Alder Picnic Area	10	Fee	Restrooms; Picnic sites
Loma Linda Picnic Area	10	Fee	Restrooms; Picnic sites

Total Other Day Use Parking 130

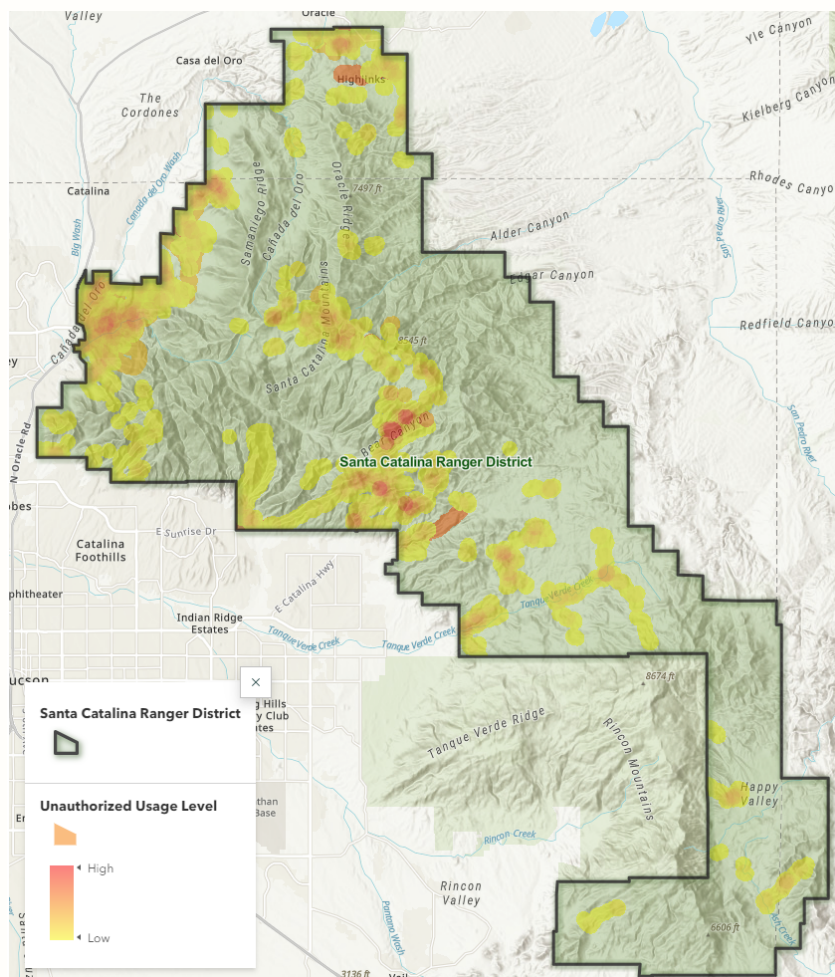


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Unauthorized Trails

Unauthorized trails are purposefully or incidentally created by users without the approval of the land manager or owner. They can be the result of purposeful construction or through incidental regular use that creates a visible travel route for others to follow. They are also referred to as “user-created”, “wildcat”, “non-system” or “social” trails.

Unlike system trails, unauthorized trails do not receive regular, formal maintenance from the land manager and are not listed on formal trail maps because they are not part of the authorized trail system. However, unauthorized trails are often included in user-generated or third-party maps, leading to confusion among visitors about the acceptability of their use.



The image above is a heat map showing areas in which recreationists go off trail. As off-trail use increases in the area, the color goes from yellow, to orange, to red. Red represents high levels of off-trail recreational use.



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There are 240 miles of primarily nonmotorized, unauthorized trails in the planning area, with roughly 40 miles of those receiving moderate or regular use. Others may be routes used a handful of times before being grown over by vegetation. Estimated unauthorized trail mileage in the planning area is approximate based on multiple data sources including the tracking app Strava, websites like Mountain Project or All Trails, and CNF and partner inventories. This estimate has not been fully field verified.

The presence of an unauthorized trail often reflects a past or present demand for recreation use or access. An unauthorized trail or system of trails often serves a recreational function that authorized trails do not.



Potential Effects of Unauthorized Trails

A variety of resource impacts have been tied to use or presence of recreational trails. These include vegetation loss, soil erosion or loss, wildlife disturbance, water quality impacts, and the spread of invasive species. Unauthorized trails do not receive the same level of design and analysis as authorized trails, which make these unintended impacts more likely.

Legality

The purposeful construction of trails without prior authorization is prohibited. However, it is generally true for non-motorized users that subsequent use of an unauthorized trail is not prohibited unless there is a site-specific regulation or closure, such as the bighorn sheep seasonal closure in Pusch Ridge Wilderness. Similarly, off-trail incidental and repeated use that creates a visible travel route, but that does not involve purposeful construction, is not prohibited. Many appropriate and desirable recreation activities such as nature study, climbing, fishing, or hunting necessitate off-trail travel that may create unauthorized trails. For motorized use, users are required to stay on designated routes identified on the Motorized Vehicle Use Map and use of an unauthorized trail could constitute a violation.

Options for Addressing Unauthorized Trails

1. No action
2. Adoption in place
3. Adoption with modifications or reroutes
4. Closure and naturalization or restoration



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Samaniego Trail

Volunteer and Partner Contributions

In FY2019 (October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019), the district recorded a total of 3510 volunteers and service participants contributing 112,185 hours. This represents 70% of the total volunteer efforts on the CNF. Due to the pandemic, volunteerism dropped off significantly on the district and forest-wide.

Volunteers contributed 11,920 hours to trail maintenance and construction and 23,855 hours to trail patrols. The majority (82%) of trail maintenance and construction was completed by organized groups leading volunteer events for their members.

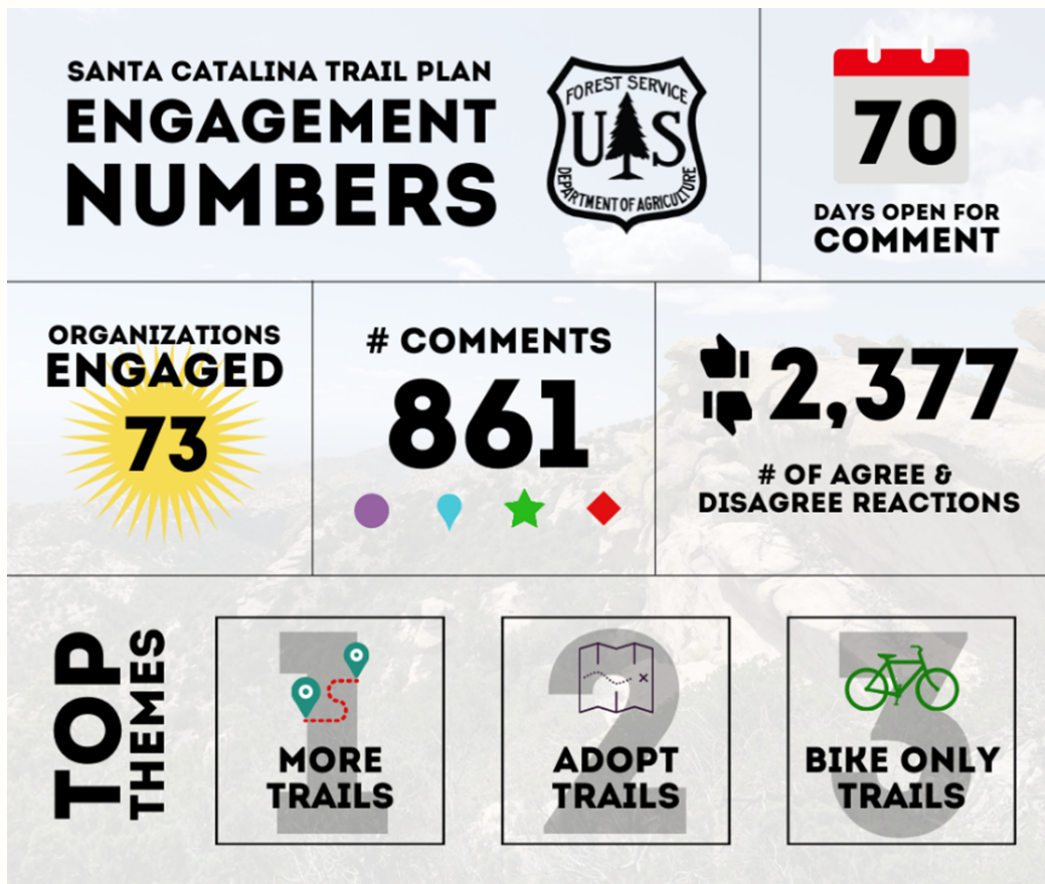
Public Sensing Results

Beginning in June 2021, the planning team began discussions with trail, community, and conservation partners to collect valuable input for the development of a trail plan. By November, the team launched a virtual interactive story map where members of the public could drop comments in geographical locations under four categories: values, opportunities, concerns, and successes. During the 70-day comment period, the team tabled in-person on Mount Lemmon, engaging visitors and answering questions about the creation of the trail plan.

Nearly 900 comments and over 2,000 agree/disagree reactions were documented. These comments were then coded and analyzed to distill common themes, hot spots of key issues, and more. The full Public Engagement Report was published in April 2022 and is available online in the link below, with a complete list of categorized themes found on page 7. The comment tallies, top themes, and subsequent discussions with community partners guided the team's direction for this trail plan.



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Top Themes

- 1. More Trails:** More trails means different things for different users: 39.4% of commenters suggested the establishment of more trails, without specification. Connector trails (23.2%) and loop trails (14.1%) followed, with beginner trails, a bike park with jumps and other features, and downhill biking trails close behind.
- 2. Adopt Trails:** Commenters identified well-loved trails that are not part of the National Forest System. A call to adopt trails (in general) along with specific trails (Milagrosa & 50 Year claimed approximately 60% of this theme), means the CNF would be able to log and maintain trail status with crews, volunteer groups, and contractors.
- 3. Bike Only Trails:** With the increasing popularity of mountain biking, both bikers and non-bikers alike called for single-use trails to increase safety and to reduce crowding.

The public also expressed interest for increased visitor information and signs, agency presence and trail maintenance. User conflict, crowding, natural and cultural resource considerations, and highway safety were also common themes. Some topics, such as e-bikes, were relatively infrequent during the sensing period.

Learn more about the [Public Sensing Phase](#), or read the full [Public Engagement Report](#).



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Identified Management Issues

The following issues were derived from public sensing, partner engagement, and staff discussion.

Access

- The lack of permanent, legal public access to forest lands puts long term public use at risk. The NFS lands north of Catalina State Park near the terminus of the official 50 Year trail that originates on state lands, the forest boundary near Milagrosa and Agua Caliente Canyons, and the northern terminus of Charouleau Gap Road #736 are most at risk.
- Parking availability at some designated trailheads is becoming strained. This issue is especially notable at several hotspot locations including Finger Rock, Gordon Hirabayashi, Molino, and Sunset trailheads. As population and recreation demand increases, this issue is expected to become more acute in the future.
- There are inadequate trail opportunities for those with limited mobility.
- Snow play often strains road capacity, parking infrastructure, and public safety personnel for Pima County and other emergency personnel.
- Visitors to the CNF, including the Santa Catalina Ranger District, do not reflect the demographics of the community leading to an “equity gap”. This gap is especially notable in terms of the relative lack of visitors who claim African American, Hispanic, or Latino heritage compared to the proportion of those demographics in Pima and Pinal Counties.

Trail Character and Sustainability

- The trail system has a lopsided range of trail difficulty, offering an abundance of higher difficulty trails with steep grades and rough tread surfaces. There are relatively limited beginner and intermediate opportunities, especially in the higher elevations accessed by Catalina Highway.
- The existing system trail conditions often do not meet USFS or professional trail standards for sustainability based on their location, cross slopes, and grades. The system was largely adopted from historic trails or constructed before the application of sustainable trail design principles.

Agency Capacity

- The USFS has been challenged to adequately maintain the system, especially more remote backcountry trails. Effects from the Bighorn Fire on trails such as Romero, Lemmon, and Butterfly are likely to generate additional maintenance needs for an extended period. Some trails are slowly disappearing due to the lack of maintenance. Limited water availability due to drought effects compounds the challenge of backcountry trail maintenance.



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- There is a growing demand for providing commercial services in the form of recreation events and outfitting and guiding. These activities may enhance or interfere with regular recreation use and require USFS staff time for administration and monitoring.
- There are inadequate USFS resources for enforcement and visitor contact in areas that could benefit from sustained agency presence.

Visitor Experience

- Demand has grown for mountain biking opportunities, yet only 20 percent of trails within the system are suitable for mountain biking. This imbalance concentrates mountain bike use on a limited number of trails.
- Steep topography and limited holistic planning mean there is relatively poor connectivity between trails, eliminating options for loops and increasing the number of interactions between users.
- Several trails are experiencing moderate user conflict, primarily in locations attractive for both hiking and mountain biking such as Aspen Draw.
- Visitor information quality and availability could be improved and modernized, especially for advanced trip planning.
- The ANST is co-located with roads in several locations, leading to safety issues and a subpar visitor experience that is not in line with the trail's management direction and establishing legislation.
- The Sun Corridor Trail has been proposed to travel across CNF lands, but a viable route that uses existing trails does not currently exist in some areas.
- There is a relatively high frequency of search and rescue operations, especially during the summer months. These operations are overseen by the Southern Arizona Rescue Association. Preventive search and rescue and visitor contact services are performed by the Santa Catalina Volunteer Patrol.

Resource Considerations

- The Golder Ranch – 50 Year area has an extensive unauthorized trail network. Nearby areas are dense with important cultural resources.
- The creation and regular use of unauthorized trails, including those that access climbing crags, has the potential to cause soil erosion and loss.
- Threatened, endangered and sensitive species can be negatively impacted by high levels of recreation use. The breeding season for the Mexican Spotted Owl (March 1 to August 30) occurs during the most popular portion of the year for recreation activities in some locations.
- Desert Bighorn Sheep habitat is closely aligned with popular and accessible portions of the Pusch Ridge Wilderness. Some types of recreation including off-leash dogs and traveling off trail can impact sheep behavior especially during the January to April breeding season.



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- It is a near certainty that future wildfires will impact recreation infrastructure in the district.
- Some locations with high levels of visitor use have inadequate amenities, such as potable water, trash service, and restrooms.



Volunteer working to brush the Butterfly Trail in 2021

Partner Data Sources

Valuable visitor data is collected across the district by various state and county entities. This information is shared to form a more comprehensive picture of use patterns on the Coronado National Forest.

Catalina Highway – Pima County Department of Transportation Data

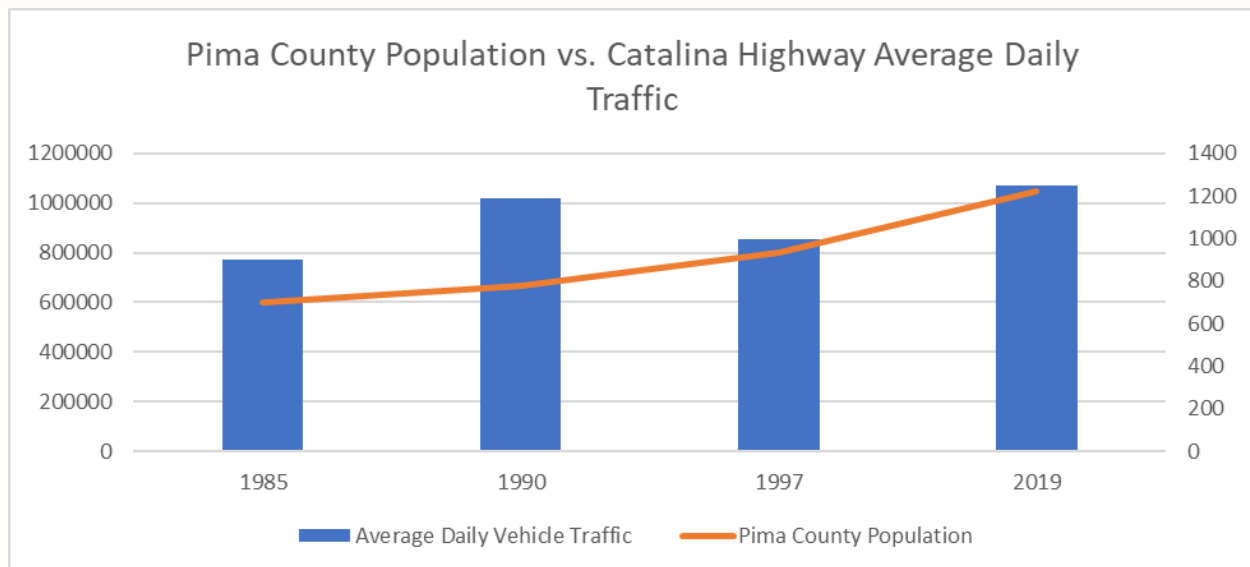
Pima County has collected traffic data on the Catalina Highway sporadically for more than 40 years. A vehicle counter at the base of the mountain shows a variable visitation pattern. Data collected in 2018 and 2019 indicates an average of 1,260 vehicles travel up the highway each day, peaking at 3,408 vehicles during Labor Day weekend.

The highway data paints a mixed picture about trends in recreation use. While traffic is up over 25% from 1997, this growth in visitation hasn't kept pace with population growth. Current average daily traffic is only slightly increased from 1990, when Pima County had 382,000 fewer residents. This may indicate that proportionally fewer locals are using the recreation offerings along the Catalina Highway even as total visitation has increased.



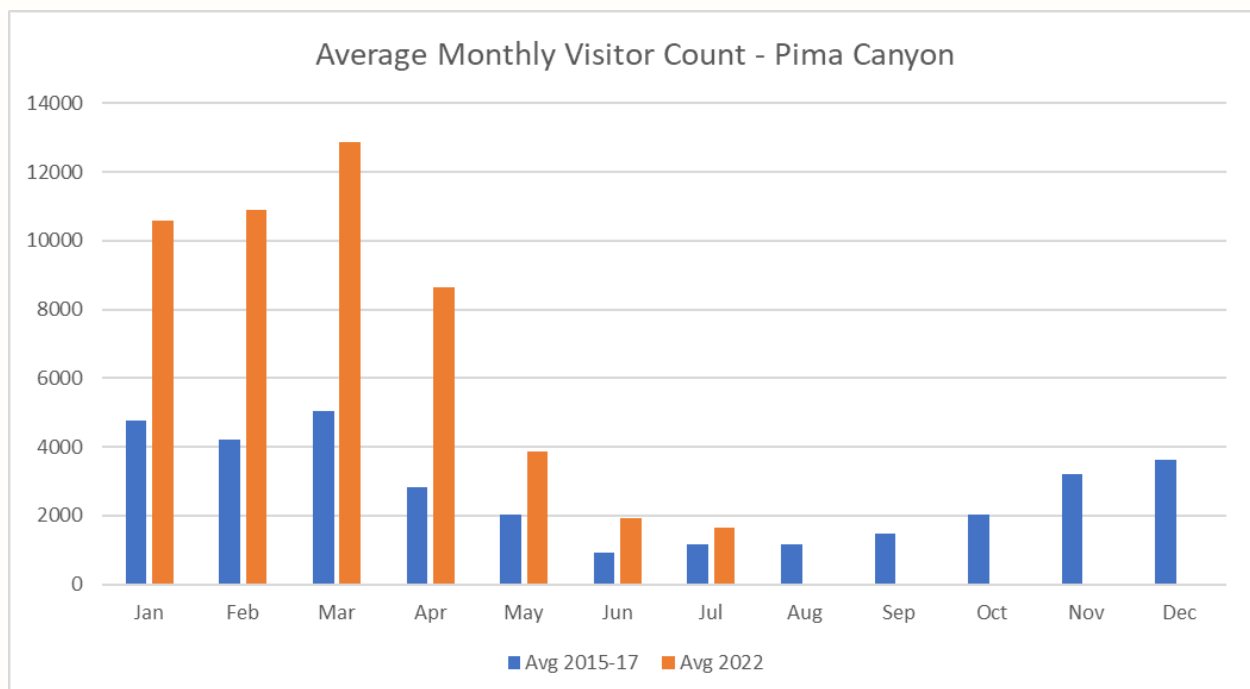
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Data suggests that visitation along the Catalina Highway is spread less evenly throughout the year. Busy days are busier than in the past, increasing chances for localized congestion.



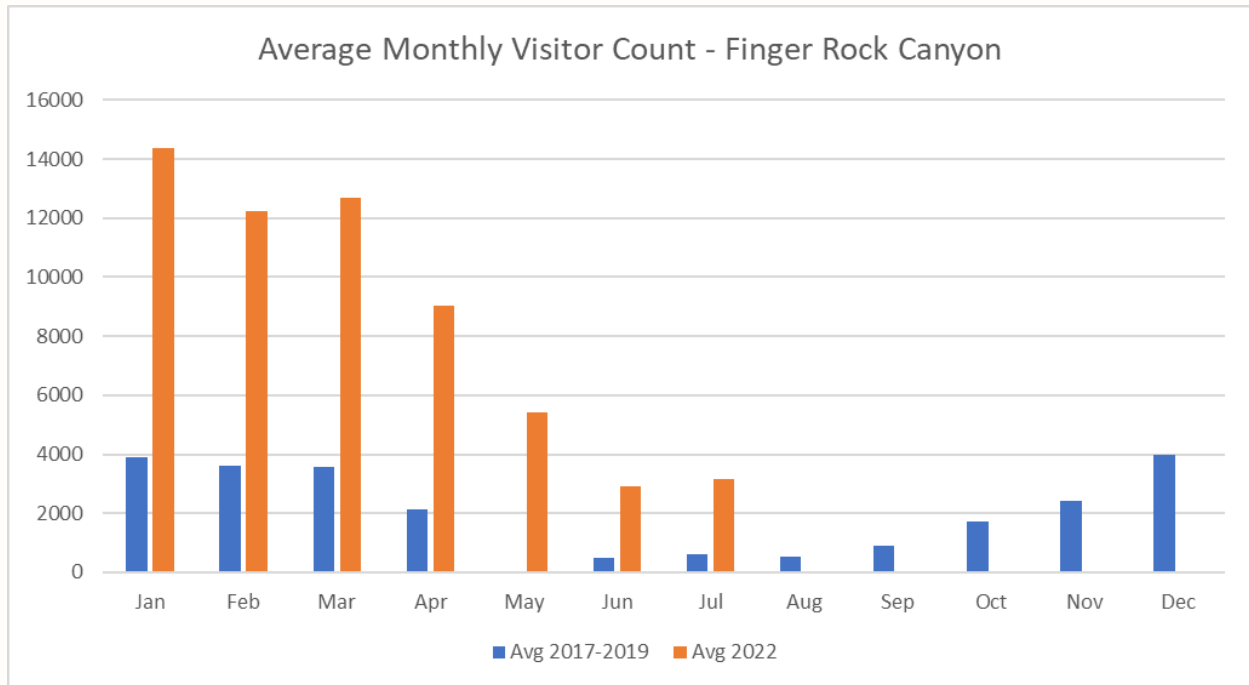
Pima County Natural Resources Parks and Recreation

One noteworthy area has shown significant increase in recreation use: the trails that lead into the canyons of the Pusch Ridge Wilderness, especially Pima Canyon and Finger Rock. Data collected by the Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Department paints a picture of heavily used trails during peak recreation season.



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The graph above depicts the increased visitor usage of the Pima Canyon Trail. Monthly averages are compared between 2015-2017 (blue) and 2022 (orange). The use of trails has increased significantly since 2017, especially with more visitors heading to trails during the COVID pandemic. There has been a 40% to 200% increase in visitors when comparing pre-pandemic data to 2022 numbers.



Finger Rock shows an even larger increase in visitation between 2017-2019 averages and 2022. The percentage increase between pre-pandemic and 2022 are between 237% and 477%. Notably, the largest increase in visitation was in July 2022, one of the hottest months in the region. May data for 2017-2019 averages is unavailable due to trail counter malfunction.

Arizona Office of Tourism Mobile Device Data

Data provided to the Arizona Office of Tourism from the mobile device data analysis service Arrivalist sheds light on the origin of visitors to the planning area. The data is generated from mobile devices users who opt into location services on a variety of applications; it remains fully anonymous. The resulting data indicates the origin and length of stay for visitors who travel from farther than 50 miles away. Other data sources indicate that visitors travelling from over 50 miles away account for over 40% of total visitors.

The top areas of origin for visitors to the Santa Catalinas are Phoenix (31%), Los Angeles (4%), Chicago (3.6%), Minneapolis (3.3%) and Denver (2.8%).



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For Sabino Canyon the information indicates:

- January to April is by far the busiest period for visitation from out-of-area visitors, peaking at over 500 people per day in March 2021.
- Other locations visited by Sabino Canyon visitors include Mt Lemmon (16%), Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum (13%), Saguaro National Park (8%), Tombstone (8%), and Grand Canyon National Park (5%).

For Catalina Highway the information indicates:

- There is a relatively even distribution pattern of out-of-town visitors throughout the year, although it peaks in March, April, and May.
- Other locations visited by Catalina Highway visitors include Tombstone (9%), Sabino Canyon (9%), Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum (8%), Saguaro National Park (6%), and Flagstaff (5%).



Bug Spring Trail

Arizona State Parks and Trails, State Trails Plan Survey Data

Arizona State Parks and Trails produced a report for Pima County in 2020. This document is supplemental to the statewide random sample survey (RSS) providing analysis at the county level. RSS is conducted every five years and informs the Arizona Trails Plan. Access the full [Pima County Report here](#).



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Report Highlights

Pima County User Profile: 80% non-motorized, 20% motorized

1. 98% of non-motorized users visit trails to hike, run, or backpack, and 80% of motorized users drive 4x4s, quads, side-by-sides, ATVs or UTVs[DNFTA1] [MAF2] on trails.
2. Nearly 99% of nonmotorized trails users report hiking, 26% report bicycling and 19% report horseback riding.
3. About 50% of both user types responded that access to trails in the last 5 years has stayed about the same, while about one third said that access has gotten better.
4. The data shows that about three quarters of motorized (75%) and non-motorized (79%) users view trails as somewhat or very important when deciding to live in AZ. They value trails even more when deciding to make travel or leisure decisions (82% and 83% respectively).
5. Different types of users find information about trails in different ways. Motorized and non-motorized users differed most in this category. A host of tools are utilized to find and use trails: 70% of motorized users primarily depend on GPS, while 64% of non-motorized users rely on word of mouth. Trail signs and smartphone apps follow for both user groups.
6. The top environmental or cultural concern for both user groups is litter or trash dumping. In a social context, non-motorized users were most concerned about poor trail etiquette by others, while motorized users cited vandalism as their top concern.
7. Overall, non-motorized users prioritized all categories of management higher than motorized users. This indicates that they attribute a higher level of importance to each issue. The two of the three highest categories were similar across user groups: providing trail signs and preventing or repairing damage to environmental and cultural sites near trails. The highest for non-motorized users is maintaining existing trails.



Unique features of the Sky Islands



CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST

Forest Service Data Sources

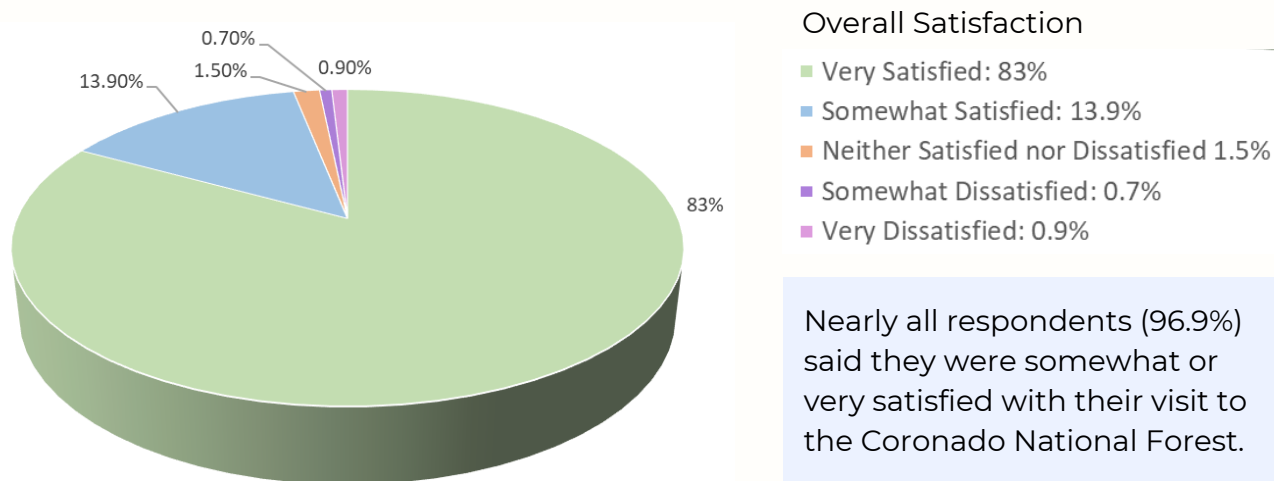
National Visitor Use Monitoring (2007/2012/2017)

The National Visitor Use Monitoring (NVUM) program was developed for the US Forest Service to collect reliable information about recreation visitors managed at the national, region, and forest levels. Visitor data is collected on-site using a standardized survey instrument over one year and repeats every five years. The most recent CNF NVUM report is from fiscal year 2017, with 2022 as the next survey year. More information about the NVUM program, including the [full report can be found here](#).

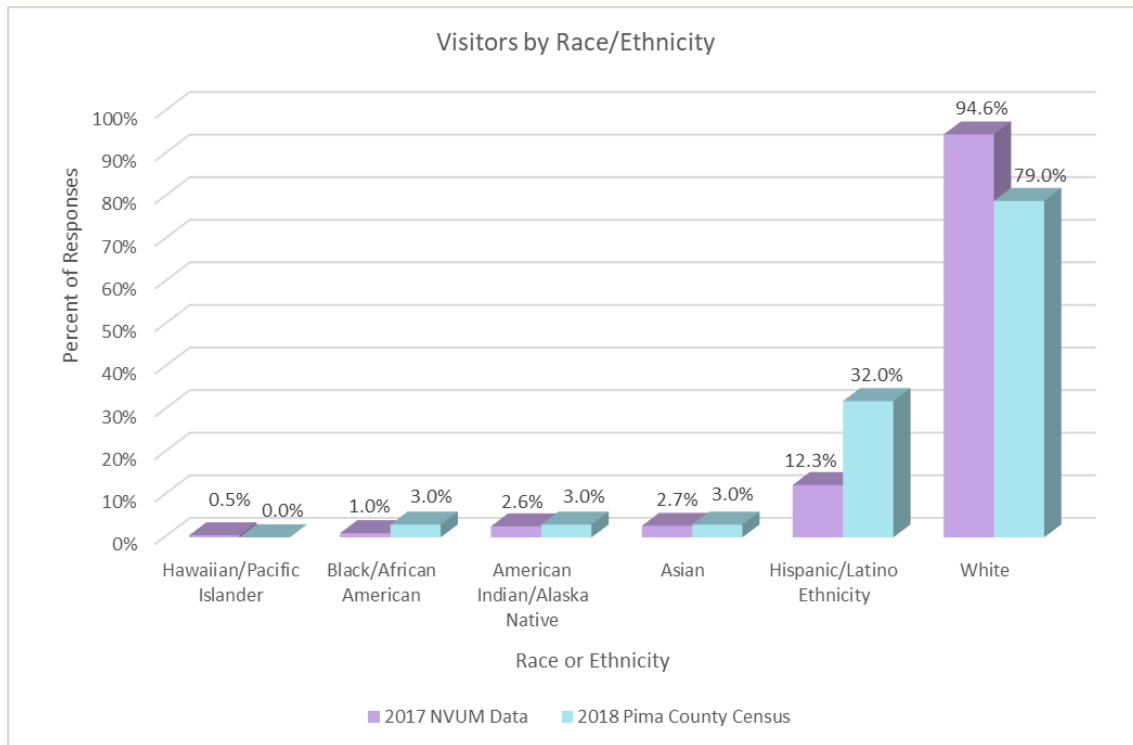
It is important to note that NVUM is not designed to collect data specific to district or site recreation use patterns, so the following results are at the forest scale. During an NVUM survey year, staff ask recreators about their reason for visiting the forest, activities they plan to participate in, facilities or sites they plan to use, and how far they traveled to get to the forest. In addition to the description of their recreation visit, demographic data is also gathered about age, race/ethnicity, gender, income level, and zip code to create a picture of who is, and isn't, recreating in the forest.

Key findings from the 2017 survey:

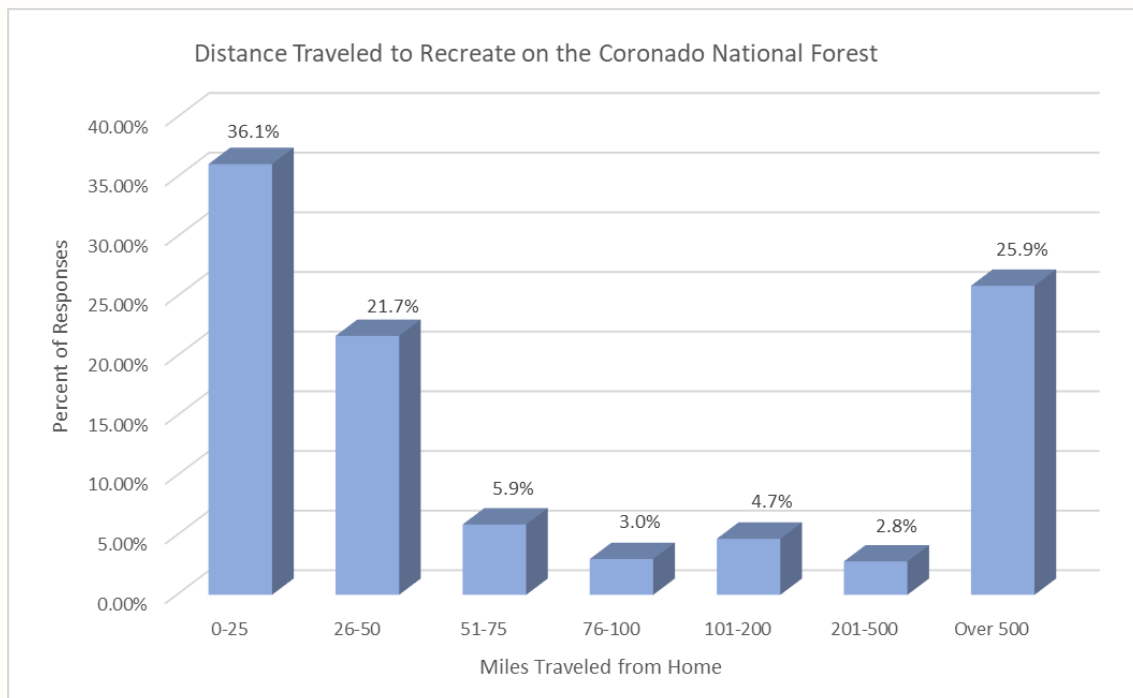
- 5.4% of visits included a group member with a disability, and of this group, 97.9% said facilities at site visited were accessible.
- NVUM data shows that 96.9% of visitors are Very Satisfied or Somewhat Satisfied with their recreation experience on the Coronado National Forest.
- The average group size was 2.4 people.
- Approximately two thirds of CNF visitors had a household income over the median income for Pima County.
- 35% of visitors made their trip with an overnight stay away from home; of these visitors, almost one third camped on the CNF.
- The average trip spending per party was \$953.



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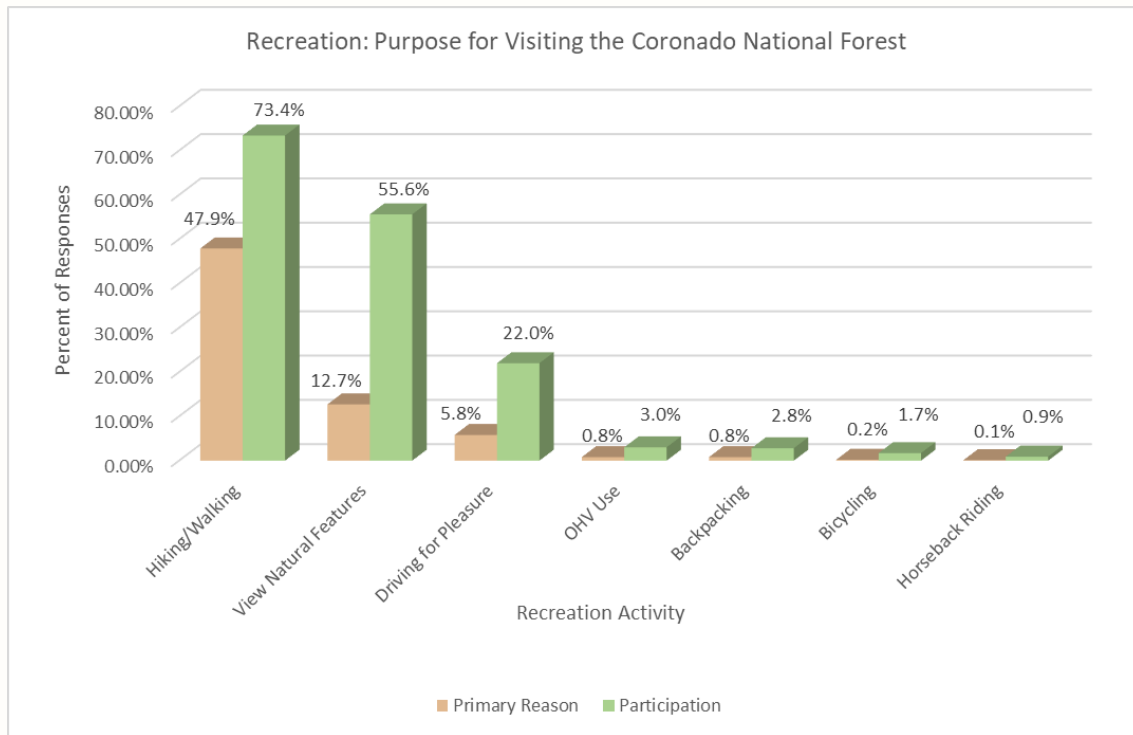
Comparison of CNF visitor demographics (2017) and Pima County Census data (2018) by race and ethnicity.



Over half (57.8%) of Forest visitors are traveling 50 miles or less to visit, and a quarter traveling more than 500 miles.



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The NVUM Data shows that most visitors are hiking/walking or viewing natural features as both their primary reason and as a participant.

Trail Plan Management Direction



Hiking Green Mountain Trail near Hitchcock Campground



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Trail Plan Goals and Objectives

Goal #1: Create a system of trails and trail access points that will meet the needs of current and future users, while seeking balance with resource availability and capability.

- **Objective 1a.** Seek permanent, legal public access to NFS lands and recreation assets. Seek to resolve one public access deficiency every three years, consistent with forest plan direction.
 - Work with Pima and Pinal Counties to ensure access up to the Forest boundary.
 - Use easements and fee title acquisition to secure key access roads and/or trails.
- **Objective 1b.** Improve parking capacity to the trail system, reducing the frequency of unsafe parking lot overflow.
 - Identify locations for expanded, improved or new parking where it would result in the least disturbance and the lowest up front and long-term cost. Seek to increase trailhead parking along Catalina Highway by at least 20%.
- **Objective 1c.** Ensure that all segments of the Arizona National Scenic Trail meet the trail's nature and purposes and comprehensive plan by 2035.
 - Ensure trail user safety by moving sections of the ANST that are co-located with roads, such as Oracle Ridge.
- **Objective 1d.** Better provide for the full range of trail difficulty, increasing the share of the system for beginner and intermediate users.
 - Construct new trails or improve existing trails to reduce trail grades and improve tread surfaces to welcome beginner and intermediate users.
 - Construct opportunities that cater to those with limited mobility, consistent with Forest Service Trail Accessibility Guidelines.
 - Construct trails appropriate for the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classification and concentrate new development in the Roaded Natural and Rural classifications where possible.
- **Objective 1e.** Meet expected recreation demand through a net increase to system mileage of 10%, or approximately 25 miles, under CNF maintenance responsibility, including adoption and new construction.
 - Trails maintained by other entities such as Catalina State Park and potential segments of the Sun Corridor Trail are not included in this target.



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Goal #2: Improve trail conditions and quality.

- **Objective 2a.** Improve recreation user safety through trail relocation or construction, especially when hikers are using busy roads.
- **Objective 2b.** Review and update the trail classification of all trails within SCRD to reflect current and future conditions. Create a prioritized maintenance schedule based on revised classifications, trail management objectives and visitor use.
- **Objective 2c.** End investment in some official trails that a) receive relatively low levels of visitor use b) provide redundant opportunities c) are difficult to maintain and/or d) present resource impact concerns.
 - These trails would be removed from the NFS.
 - Associated steps include removing signs or signing as closed (as conditions dictate); blocking the trail within visual sight distance from its access point; recontouring or fully decommissioning the trail only at sensitive locations like water crossings, if they are present; and informing the public that these trails are no longer maintained.
- **Objective 2d.** Promote trail stewardship partnerships with user groups, individual volunteers, and nonprofit organizations. Update or create working agreements with partners and individuals on a continuous basis.
- **Objective 2e.** Increase external support (in the form of volunteer hours and third-party contributions for trail stewardship) by 20% above 2020 baseline.
 - Improve volunteer recruitment, recognition, and coordination.
 - Explore adopt-a-trail arrangements for selected, high use trails.
 - Ensure new construction is connected to partner maintenance commitments.

Goal #3: Mitigate the proliferation of unauthorized trails.

- **Objective 3a.** Add sustainable trails with demonstrated recreation value and low resource conflicts to the National Forest System. Complete re-routes or trail improvements where necessary to meet USFS standards.
- **Objective 3b.** Obliterate and restore trails that are damaging to natural resources and can't be maintained to be sustainable.
- **Objective 3c.** Work collaboratively with the rock climbing community to identify important climbing approaches and identify management prescriptions, consistent with national USFS policy. This will include preparation of a climbing management plan.

Goal #4: Effectively manage trails to reduce user conflicts.

- **Objective 4a.** Ensure shared use trail principles for the majority of the non-wilderness trail system, using educational efforts, signage and on-site patrols to encourage appropriate trail etiquette.



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- **Objective 4b.** Ensure trail conditions that encourage safe use of shared use trails by enhancing sight lines and ensuring firm trail tread.
- **Objective 4c.** Construct directional mountain bike opportunities.
- **Objective 4d.** Test use sharing and allocation techniques, such as an odd/even day arrangement for hikers and mountains bikers.

Goal #5: Advance non-recreation program goals with recreation management, where possible.

- **Objective 5a.** Co-locate recreation trails with fire breaks and fire management operational boundaries, where possible.
- **Objective 5b.** Concentrate new trail development in areas with current human and noise disturbance, such as near roads where suitable.
- **Objective 5c.** Continue management measures to prevent impacts to bighorn sheep, including public education and an enforceable, seasonal prohibition on off-road travel.



Volunteers clearing downed trees on the Esperero Trail in the Pusch Ridge Wilderness



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Proposed Trail Management Modifications

Trail Name	Trail #	Current Condition			Trail Management Objectives		Wilderness Location	Stewardship Partner	Proposed Changes		
		Length (Miles)	Notes	Relative Use Levels	Trail Class	Designated Use			Trail Improvement	Maintenance Frequency	Closure or Decommissioning
Agua Caliente Hill	46	4.5	Accessed by a Pima County-operated trailhead	Medium	3	Hiker and Pedestrian				3 years	
Aspen	93	3.8	Hiking trail link between Radio Ridge and Marshall Gulch	Medium	3	Pack and Saddle	Pusch Ridge			Annually	
Aspen Draw	423	1.0	Within the Ski Valley permit area; popular for hiking and mountain biking	High	3	Hiker and Pedestrian		TORCA, Ski Valley		Annually	
Babad Do'ag	705	2.5	Hiking trail on the lower elevations of Catalina Highway	Medium	2	Hiker and Pedestrian	Pusch Ridge			3 years	
Bajada Loop	38	0.2	Short interpretive loop adjacent to the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center	High	4	Hiker and Pedestrian				Annually	
Bear Canyon	29	6.7	One of the most popular trails within the region, accesses Seven Falls	Very High	3	Pack and Saddle	Pusch Ridge	Friends of Sabino		Annually	
Bellota	15	10.7	ANST; available for mountain biking	Medium	3	Pack and Saddle		ATA, TORCA		3 years	
Bigelow	520	0.9	Short connector near Mount Bigelow; popular for mt biking	Medium	3	Hiker and Pedestrian		TORCA		Annually	



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Trail Name	Trail #	Current Condition			Trail Management Objectives		Wilderness Location	Stewardship Partner	Proposed Changes		
		Length (Miles)	Notes	Relative Use Levels	Trail Class	Designated Use			Trail Improvement	Maintenance Frequency	Closure or Decommissioning
Blackett's Ridge	48	1.9	Within Sabino Canyon Recreation Area; increasingly popular for trail running and hiking	High	2	Hiker and Pedestrian				3 years	
Bluff	51	0.2	Within Sabino Canyon Recreation Area	Very Hight	3	Hiker and Pedestrian				Annually	
Box Camp	22	7.1	North-south wilderness connector	Medium	3	Pack and Saddle	Pusch Ridge			3 years	Remove lower 2-3 miles from NFS
Box Spring	22A	0.3	Short spur from Box Camp	Medium	3	Pack and Saddle	Pusch Ridge			3 years	
Brush Corral	19	7.4	Long hiking and backpacking option starting on the NE side of Green Mountain	Low	3	Pack and Saddle		CASA		3 years	Remove lower 4 miles below Shortcut junction from NFS
Bug Springs	10	5.5	ANST Wilderness Bypass; very popular mountain biking trail	High	3	Pack and Saddle		TORCA		Annually	
Butterfly	16	5.2	ANST Wilderness Bypass; popular hiking trail not suitable for mt biking; passes through Butterfly Research Natural Area	High	3	Pack and Saddle		ATA		Annually	



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Trail Name	Trail #	Current Condition			Trail Management Objectives		Wilderness Location	Stewardship Partner	Proposed Changes		
		Length (Miles)	Notes	Relative Use Levels	Trail Class	Designated Use			Trail Improvement	Maintenance Frequency	Closure or Decommissioning
Canada Del Oro	4	7.7	Heavily impacted by Bighorn Fire, previously growing into a destination backcountry mountain bike ride	Low	3	Pack and Saddle		TORCA	Re-route lower 1.4 miles out of drainage bottom	n/a	Remove 5.0 mile portion between Samaniego and Red Ridge from NFS
Catalina Camp	401	1.7	Converted two track road serving primarily as a connector between Oracle Ridge and Red Ridge	Very Low	3	Pack and Saddle			Change to Class 2	3 years	
Cathedral Rock	26	2.9	Provides access to Pusch Ridge Wilderness crest	Low	2	Hiker and Pedestrian				5 years	
CDO Link	4A	0.3		Low	1	Hiker and Pedestrian	Pusch Ridge			n/a	Remove from NFS
Cody	9	1.8	ANST	Low	3	Pack and Saddle		ATA		5 years	
Connector A	654A	0.1		Low	3	Pack and Saddle				3 years	
Connector B	654B	0.1		Low	3	Pack and Saddle				3 years	
Creek	52	0.5	Within Sabino Canyon Recreation Area	High	3	Hiker and Pedestrian				3 years	
Crystal Spring	17	3.6	Moderately popular hiking trail, not well suited for mountain biking	Medium	3	Pack and Saddle			Change to Class 2	3 years	



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Trail Name	Trail #	Current Condition			Trail Management Objectives		Wilderness Location	Stewardship Partner	Proposed Changes		
		Length (Miles)	Notes	Relative Use Levels	Trail Class	Designated Use			Trail Improvement	Maintenance Frequency	Closure or Decommissioning
Davis Spring	31	6.0	Long hiking and backpacking option starting near Butterfly Peak	Low	2	Pack and Saddle				5 years	
East Fork	24A	2.1	ANST	Medium	3	Pack and Saddle	Pusch Ridge	ATA		3 years	
Esperero	25	6.7	Steep and scenic canyon connecting Sabino Canyon Recreation Area to the Pusch Ridge wilderness crest	Medium	3	Hiker and Pedestrian	Pusch Ridge		Connect with Sabino Overflow Lot via adoption of unauthorized trail	3 years	
Evans Mt/ Evans Trail	32	5.0	Difficult to follow in places	Very Low	2	Hiker and Pedestrian				n/a	Remove from NFS
Finger Rock	42	6.3	Accessed by Pima County-operated trailhead	Very High	3	Hiker and Pedestrian	Pusch Ridge	CASA		Annually	
Green Mountain	21	4.2	Popular ANST recommended mountain bike route	High	3	Pack and Saddle		TORCA, ATA	Multiple short re-routes under 500' in length to improve sustainability	Annually	
Guthrie	704 A	0.8		Very Low	2	Hiker and Pedestrian				3 years	



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Trail Name	Trail #	Current Condition			Trail Management Objectives		Wilderness Location	Stewardship Partner	Proposed Changes		
		Length (Miles)	Notes	Relative Use Levels	Trail Class	Designated Use			Trail Improvement	Maintenance Frequency	Closure or Decommissioning
Incinerator Ridge	18A	1.6	ANST recommended mountain bike route	Medium	3	Pack and Saddle		TORCA	Implement small-scale reroutes and drainage improvements	3 years	
Italian Spring	95	3.6	ANST; connects Reddington Pass to Saguaro National Park	Low	3	Hiker and Pedestrian	Rincon Mountain			3 years	
Kellogg	45	0.5		Low	3	Hiker and Pedestrian				5 years	
Knagge	18	9.5	Long hiking and backpacking option connecting Incinerator Ridge and Davis Spring	Low	3	Pack and Saddle			Change to Class 2 to reflect layout and condition	5 years	
Lemmon Rock/ Lookout	12	2.0		Medium	3	Pack and Saddle	Pusch Ridge			3 years	
Linda Vista	49	3.7	Accessed by Oro Valley-operated trailhead	Very High	3	Hiker and Pedestrian	Pusch Ridge			Annually	
Lower Bear Link	29A	0.1		High	2	Pack and Saddle				Annually	



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Trail Name	Trail #	Current Condition			Trail Management Objectives		Wilderness Location	Stewardship Partner	Proposed Changes		
		Length (Miles)	Notes	Relative Use Levels	Trail Class	Designated Use			Trail Improvement	Maintenance Frequency	Closure or Decommissioning
Lower Tanque Verde Falls	342	0.4	Hiking trail constructed by the Southern Arizona Rescue Association to provide safer access to the canyon bottom	High	2	Hiker and Pedestrian		Friends of Redington Pass	Improve and connect as part of Tanque Verde Falls Recreation Enhancement Project. Change to class 3.	3 years	
Marshall Gulch	3	1.3	ANST and one of the few beginner-friendly forested trails	Very High	3	Hiker and Pedestrian	Pusch Ridge	ATA		Annually	
Maverick Spring	704	0.4	Popular hiking and biking option below the Mt Lemmon summit	Low	2	Hiker and Pedestrian				5 years	
Meadow	5A	0.8	Hiking trail option in Summerhaven	High	3	Pack and Saddle				3 years	
Mint Spring	20	1.6	Hiking trail option in Summerhaven	Medium	3	Pack and Saddle				3 years	
Molino Basin	11	2.8	ANST; one of the few options for equestrians, also popular with runners, hikers and mt bikers	High	3	Pack and Saddle		TORCA, ATA		Annually	
Molino Vista	11A	0.1	Accessible trail at the Molino Vista site	High	4	Hiker and Pedestrian				Annually	



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Trail Name	Trail #	Current Condition			Trail Management Objectives		Wilderness Location	Stewardship Partner	Proposed Changes		
		Length (Miles)	Notes	Relative Use Levels	Trail Class	Designated Use			Trail Improvement	Maintenance Frequency	Closure or Decommissioning
Mount Lemmon	5	5.8	ANST; heavily impacted by Bighorn Fire	Medium	3	Pack and Saddle	Pusch Ridge			3 years	
OHV 2	652	1.2	Connecting motorized trail in Redington Pass	Medium	3	All Terrain Vehicle				3 years	
OHV 3	653	1.5	Connecting motorized trail in Redington Pass	Medium	3	All Terrain Vehicle				3 years	
OHV 4	654	1.5	Connecting motorized trail in Redington Pass	Medium	3	All Terrain Vehicle				3 years	
OHV Rte 1	651	1.4	Connecting motorized trail in Redington Pass	Medium	2	All Terrain Vehicle				3 years	
Oracle Ridge	1	11.5	ANST; relatively underutilized northside trail dropping from near Summerhaven to Oracle	Low	3	Pack and Saddle		ATA	Invest in trail experience by improving tread conditions and constructing re-routes off NFS roads	3 years	



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Trail Name	Trail #	Current Condition			Trail Management Objectives		Wilderness Location	Stewardship Partner	Proposed Changes		
		Length (Miles)	Notes	Relative Use Levels	Trail Class	Designated Use			Trail Improvement	Maintenance Frequency	Closure or Decommissioning
Palisade	99	6.2	North-south wilderness connector	Medium	3	Hiker and Pedestrian	Pusch Ridge		Re-establish and improve tread conditions to serve as primary north-south wilderness connector and connect to Palisades Visitor Center. Portion beyond Organization Ridge, change to Class 2.	3 years	
Phoneline	27	4.5	Within Sabino Canyon Recreation Area; popular hiking and trail running option	Very High	3	Hiker and Pedestrian	Pusch Ridge	Friends of Sabino		Annually	
Phoneline Link	27A	0.8	Within Sabino Canyon Recreation Area	High	3	Hiker and Pedesrian		Friends of Sabino		Annually	



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Trail Name	Trail #	Current Condition			Trail Management Objectives		Wilderness Location	Stewardship Partner	Proposed Changes		
		Length (Miles)	Notes	Relative Use Levels	Trail Class	Designated Use			Trail Improvement	Maintenance Frequency	Closure or Decommissioning
Pima	62	7.6	Accessed by Pima County Trailhead; classic canyon hike offering access to Pusch Ridge Wilderness crest	Very High	3	Hiker and Pedesrian	Pusch Ridge		Implement small-scale reroutes and drainage improvements in vicinity of Pima Saddle to improve trail sustainability	Annually	
Pontatoc	410	2.8	Steep and scenic wilderness route accessed from Finger Rock Trailhead	High	3	Hiker and Pedesrian	Pusch Ridge		Connect with Finger Rock Trail	3 years	
Pontatoc Ridge	411	1.8	Steep and scenic wilderness route accessed from Finger Rock Trailhead	Medium	2	Hiker and Pedesrian	Pusch Ridge			3 years	
Rattlesnake	50	0.4	Within Sabino Canyon Recreation Area	Medium	3	Hiker and Pedestrian		Friends of Sabino		3 years	
Red Ridge	2	50	Steep northside trail used for mountain biking and hiking	Medium	3	Pack and Saddle		TORCA	Re-route small segments near its junction with Catalina Camp	3 years	
Romero	8	7.2	Popular trail accessed from Catalina State Park that leads to Romero Pools and beyond; upper segment heavily impacted by Bighorn Fire	Very High	3	Hiker and Pedestrian	Pusch Ridge	Catalina State Park		Annually (to Romero Pools); every 3 years (upper)	



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Trail Name	Trail #	Current Condition			Trail Management Objectives		Wilderness Location	Stewardship Partner	Proposed Changes		
		Length (Miles)	Notes	Relative Use Levels	Trail Class	Designated Use			Trail Improvement	Maintenance Frequency	Closure or Decommissioning
Rose Canyon Lake	37	0.2	Within concession permit area, accessible trail providing lake access	Very High	5	Hiker and Pedestrian		Vista Recreation		Annually	
Sabino Canyon	23	2.5	Within Sabino Canyon Recreation Area	Medium	3	Hiker and Pedestrian	Pusch Ridge	Friends of Sabino		3 years	
Sabino Creek	52A	0.2	Within Sabino Canyon Recreation Area	Very High	3	Hiker and Pedestrian		Friends of Sabino		Annually	
Sabino Dam	33	0.3	Within Sabino Canyon Recreation Area	Very High	3	Hiker and Pedestrian		Friends of Sabino		Annually	
Sabino Historic	23A	0.7	Within Sabino Canyon Recreation Area	Very High	3	Hiker and Pedestrian	Pusch Ridge	Friends of Sabino		Annually	
Sabino Lake	30	0.6	Within Sabino Canyon Recreation Area	Very High	3	Hiker and Pedestrian		Friends of Sabino		Annually	
Sabino Walkway	53	0.5	Within Sabino Canyon Recreation Area	High	5	Hiker and Pedestrian		Friends of Sabino		Annually	
Samaniego	7	8.9	Long distance northside trail offering expansive views, connecting CDO and Charouleau Gap road but unsustainable in places and difficult to follow	Low	3	Pack and Saddle			Complete re-routes just south of Charouleau Gap to improve usability and serve as Sun Corridor Trail	3 years	
Green Mountain Shortcut	21A	0.9	Forms a hiking loop with Brush Corral and Green Mountain Trail	Medium	3	Pack and Saddle		CASA		3 years	



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Trail Name	Trail #	Current Condition			Trail Management Objectives		Wilderness Location	Stewardship Partner	Proposed Changes		
		Length (Miles)	Notes	Relative Use Levels	Trail Class	Designated Use			Trail Improvement	Maintenance Frequency	Closure or Decommissioning
Soldier	53	2.6	An out and back day hike option in Pusch Ridge Wilderness	Medium	3	Hiker and Pedestrian	Pusch Ridge		Change to Class 2 to reflect layout and condition	5 years	
Sunset	90	1.2	Popular high-country hiking and biking trail connecting Marshall Gulch and Soldier Camp area; provides access to some climbing areas	High	3	Hiker and Pedestrian				3 years	
Sutherland	6	3.5	Heavily impacted by Bighorn Fire; extremely steep and near impossible to follow in some segments	Very Low	3	Pack and Saddle	Pusch Ridge			n.a	Remove entire 3.5 miles from NFS
Sycamore Reservoir	39	3.2	ANST: part of the connector from Hirabayashi to Bear and Sabino Canyons	Medium	3	Hiker and Pedestrian	Pusch Ridge	ATA		5 years	
Turkey Creek	34	1.8	Provides access to the high country of Saguaro National Park	Low	3	Hiker and Pedestrian	Rincon Mountain		Change to Class 2 to reflect layout and condition	5 years	



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Trail Name	Trail #	Current Condition			Trail Management Objectives		Wilderness Location	Stewardship Partner	Proposed Changes		
		Length (Miles)	Notes	Relative Use Levels	Trail Class	Designated Use			Trail Improvement	Maintenance Frequency	Closure or Decommissioning
Upper Tanque Verde Falls	343	0.2	Short but popular trail offering access to the canyon bottom	High	3	Hiker and Pedestrian			Improve and connect as part of Tanque Verde Falls Recreation Enhancement Project	3 years	
Ventana	98	7.9	Accessed by Pima County-operated trailhead; classic canyon hike especially up to Maiden Pools	High	3	Hiker and Pedestrian	Pusch Ridge	Pima County		Annually	
Vista	14	0.3		High	3	Hiker and Pedestrian				Annually	
West Fork	24	6.8	ANST; remote-feeling hiking/backpacking option	Low	3	Pack and Saddle	Pusch Ridge			3 years	
Wilderness of Rocks	44	4.0	ANST; wilderness thoroughfare typically accessed from Marshall Gulch	High	3	Pack and Saddle	Pusch Ridge	ATA	Implement small-scale reroutes	3 years	



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Trail Development and Connectivity Listing - Summary



Adoption	Miles
Milagrosa	3.68
1918	0.83
Bigelow Roadbed	0.30
Esperero Connector	0.56
Alamo Canyon (Catalina SP)	n/a
50 Year	17.00
Blue Line	0.38
Total	22.75

Removal from System	Miles
Brush Corral	4.06
Evans Mountain	5.01
Sutherland	4.67
Lower Box Camp	2.01
Canada del Oro	5.25
Canada del Oro Link	0.25
Total	21.25

Reroutes	Miles
CDO (Lower)	1.68
Arizona Trail - Oracle Ridge	7.75
Samaniego	3.71
Red Ridge	0.20
Green Mountain	0.25
Incinerator Ridge	0.25
Pima Canyon	0.20
Wilderness of Rocks	0.30
Total	18.05



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New Construction	Miles
Bug Junior Directional Mountain Bike Trail	5.50
Molino Canyon Trail	1.00
Finger Rock to Pontotoc Connector	1.27
TV Falls Canyon Rim and Connector	1.45
Marshall Gulch to Summerhaven	0.89
Summerhaven to Oracle Ridge	0.45
Rose Canyon Hiker Access	1.36
Tucson Vista (all segments)	8.33
Palisades to Vista extension	0.16
Vista to 1918 Connector	0.50
Green Mountain to Vista Connector	0.20
Fireline Trail	1.17
Bigelow to Fireline Connector	1.04
Arizona Trail - Oracle Ridge to Summerhaven	0.46
Total	23.78

Total Mileage Amounts

	Miles
Current System Total	250.00
plus <i>Adoption</i>	+22.75
minus <i>Removal from System</i>	-21.25
plus <i>New Construction</i>	+23.78
New System Total	275.28
New Total Growth Scenario	110.11%

Reroute miles not accounted for in New Total Growth Scenario



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Trail Development and Connectivity Projects

Priority	Project ID	Project Description	Rationale
Top Near-Term Priority	1D	Adopt Milagrosa Trail into the National Forest System. Incorporate 3.75 miles of the currently unauthorized Milagrosa Trail into the National Forest system as a Class 3 nonmotorized trail. Accessed from a Pima County-operated access point on the south and Bellota trail on the north.	The Milagrosa trail provides scenic hiking and mountain biking opportunities, as well as access to climbing areas. It was the most frequently mentioned unauthorized trail during public sensing. Pima County Natural Resources Parks and Recreation does not currently have fully continuous, permanent, legal public access but is actively seeking it. However, the trail could be connected to the Agua Caliente Trailhead if conditions dictate.
Top Near-Term Priority	2D	Adopt the Golder Ranch - 50 Year Trail System on NFS lands by adopting, realigning and improving existing trails into the NFS system; overall system would total up to 17 miles of trails including a connection to Charouleau Gap Road. This action would be complemented by an increased and holistic effort to fully document and steward cultural resources in the area. Access controls to cultural sites listed on the National Register would be enhanced in partnership with other organizations and the site steward program if conditions indicate adverse impacts. The existing system of trails would require a full sustainability evaluation, and likely require re-routes or closures based on erosion or proximity to cultural resources before official adoption. The intended result is a shared use non-motorized system with permanent access that provides desirable recreation experiences.	The 18 miles of unauthorized trails at the end of the 50 Year Trail are heavily used for scenic hiking, horseback riding, and mountain biking opportunities. Observation from users indicate upwards of 60 vehicles accessing the system daily on busy weekends. It was the second most frequently mentioned unauthorized trail area during public sensing. Adjacent development and population growth are expected into the future. Continuation of the current management approach is likely to lead to further proliferation of unauthorized trail, risk to cultural resources, and conflict between users. An active management program implemented by the USFS and our partners would seek a long term balance. There is currently no fully continuous, permanent, legal public access to the forest boundary between Charouleau Gap Road and Catalina State Park across state land, and the boundary between land ownerships is unknown to most users. Should legal access not be obtained prior to the expiration of the 50 Year easement, USFS would cease investment in the trail system.



CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST

Priority	Project ID	Project Description	Rationale
	3D	Adopt Esperero Connector Trail. Adopt an existing 0.5 mile unauthorized trail that provides a shortcut from the overflow lot to the Esperero Trail. Manage as Class 2.	A trail connector would provide a higher quality wilderness trail experience by eliminating the need to use the main Sabino Canyon road. Initial assessment indicates the unauthorized trail has sustainable grades and cross slopes.
	4D	Construct a new 1.25 mile connecting trail between Finger Rock and Pontotoc. Develop a class 2 nonmotorized trail from approximately mile marker 2 of the Finger Rock Trail to the terminus of Pontotoc trail. This trail is located within Pusch Ridge Wilderness and the Bighorn Sheep Management Area.	While new trail construction in wilderness must meet high standards for the protection of wilderness character, a new connection between these two popular trails would allow hikers to make a loop and improve opportunities for solitude by reducing encounters between trail users without impacting group size or trailhead access. Visitor data indicates the Finger Rock trailhead receives 8,000 visitors per month during peak season. Available data indicates this area is not heavily used by the range's resident bighorn sheep population.
Top Near-Term Priority	5D	Construct Tanque Verde Falls Canyon Rim and Connector Trails, adopt Blue Line Trail. Complete trail elements identified in the Tanque Verde Falls Recreation Enhancement Project including construction of 1.5 miles of trail and adoption of 0.5 miles.	The Tanque Verde Falls area is a heavily used dispersed recreation area without appropriate sanitation, visitor information, and other management controls. The trail actions within this project will provide beginner and intermediate options that improve public safety. See the decision notice for full rationale for this project.
	6D	Construct a new 1.0-mile Molino Canyon Trail. Develop a Class 3 nonmotorized trail in the lower portion of Molino Canyon, accessible from the ANST and the proposed Molino Canyon Trailhead expansion.	This trail will help meet visitor demand for beginner level hiking opportunities on the lower portion of the Catalina Highway. Molino Canyon is highly scenic and currently has a poorly aligned unauthorized trail.
	7D	Construct a new 5.5 mile directional mountain biking trail. Develop a downhill directional mountain biking trail between Bug Spring and the Catalina Highway. Trail would be class 3 with bike-specific trail specifications, see project spotlight. Note that another location for this trail has been evaluated on the ridgeline between Catalina Highway and Milagrosa. Evaluation may continue before project specific planning.	Public sensing indicated the growing demand for mountain biking. Currently less than one quarter of the system is available for mountain biking due to wilderness designations or practical topographic constraints. Directional mountain bicycling trails have proven an effective means to provide quality trail experiences and concentrate biking use.



CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST

Priority	Project ID	Project Description	Rationale
Top Near-Term Priority	8D	Construct the Tucson Vista Trail connecting Rose Canyon, Palisades, higher elevation campgrounds, and Sunset Trailhead. Develop an approximately 8.5 mile, Class 3 trail that begins at the top of the Rose Canyon access road and approximately parallels the Catalina Highway outside of the wilderness boundary. The trail would connect Sollers Cabin, Palisades, Showers Point, Whitetail, Spencer Canyon and Sunset Trailhead. The trail would be available for non-motorized use with expected high use from hiking, running, and mountain biking. It would be constructed at the least steep grade practical for sustainability purposes and to encourage beginner use. If fully constructed, the trail could become the recommended route for mountain bikers on the Arizona National Scenic Trail avoiding the Pusch Ridge Wilderness. The trail is co-located with planned firebreaks that would be used in wildfire planning and protection. Existing roadbeds would be converted to trail use; these segments total approximately 1.5 miles or nearly 20 percent of the total.	Two main themes came through clearly in public sensing: the lack of beginner and intermediate trail opportunities especially in higher elevations, and the limited connectivity of the existing system for multiple trail users. The Tucson Vista trail would address these issues by creating a marquee trail that provides equitable access for those with a range of trail experience and mobility. The intent is also to maximize terrain and views with available parking by connecting existing developed recreation sites. This has the added benefit of placing the trail in an area with relatively high auditory and other disturbance from the highway and other features. Furthermore, the trail has the potential to replace an existing ANST recommended route around the wilderness with a better, more user friendly alternative. Lastly, co-location with firebreaks would efficiently minimize the amount of disturbance.
	9D	Construct a Green Mountain to Tucson Vista Connector. This short Class 3 trail would link the upper Green Mountain trailhead with the eastern terminus at the Tucson Vista Trail near the Rose Canyon access road.	This short segment would improve system connectivity and allow the new Vista Trail to serve as the ANST recommended mountain bike route without using the highway. The highway crossing at the proposed location has relatively good sight lines.
	10D	Connect Palisades Trail to Palisades Visitor Center. Construct a short 0.4 mile Class 3 trail that connects the Palisades trail up to the parking area for the Palisades visitor center.	This trail segment would improve trail connectivity and make better use of existing parking. The current unsurfaced trailhead for Butterfly Trail reaches capacity during the high use season, while the paved Palisades Trailhead often has excess capacity. The current Palisades trailhead could be signed for horse trailer parking only, if demand dictates.



CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST

Priority	Project ID	Project Description	Rationale
	11D	Construct a 1.4 mile Rose Canyon Lake Hiker Access Trail. Develop a new Class 3 pedestrian only trail that links the top of the Rose Canyon access road parking area to the primary day use lake parking. The trail would be developed with minimal grades (6% target) and a wide, stable tread surface so it is appealing for lake users.	Rose Canyon is popular for fishing, hiking, and picnicking. When the day use area parking lot reaches capacity, visitor walk along the narrow campground and lake access road, leading to safety hazards.
	12D	Adopt 1918/Sunset/Secret Trails from the Mt Bigelow Road to the Catalina Highway and rename it the Bear Wallow Trail. Approximately 1 mile of popular unauthorized trail in the Bigelow/Bear Wallow area would be improved for sustainability and adopted into the system. Modifications may include short re-routes, drainage improvements, and removal of constructed features.	The trails have been used for decades and provide a rare opportunity to experience lush mixed conifer forest. The popularity of dispersed camping around Mt Bigelow has increased the visitor use of these trails. When combined with the Fireline and Bigelow to Fireline connector trails, the area would offer a modest system of connected non-motorized trail options. This entire area is classified as Roaded Natural, which allows for moderate to high interaction between users.
	13D	Construct a 1.4 mile Fireline Trail on the northern slope of Mt Bigelow. Develop a new Class 3 nonmotorized trail that is co-located with an existing fire line used for wildfire management purposes. This downhill directional trail would offer an intermediate mountain biking experience in a forested environment, including features constructed with natural materials (soil and rocks) the provide skills progression opportunities.	There are limited opportunities for mountain biking and hiking in the higher forested elevations of the Santa Catalinas, however demand is substantial. This trail, when combined with the adoption of 1918 and construction of the Bigelow to Fireline Trail, would allow for interconnected loops especially when used with the Tucson Vista Trail. The location was selected based on terrain and the planned location of fire line maintained to protect forest values at risk. The area's open terrain would allow for good sight lines.
	14D	Construct a 1-mile Bigelow to Fireline Trail Connector on the south side of Mt Bigelow Road. Develop a new Class 3 non-motorized trail that parallels that Mt Bigelow Road from the Bigelow Trail to the east terminus of the proposed Fireline Trail.	Several user-created trails are present in this area. This shared use non-motorized trail would improve connectivity in the area with a sustainable alignment. It would also support fire management objectives for protecting the substantial values on Mount Bigelow.



CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST

Priority	Project ID	Project Description	Rationale
	15D	Extend the Marshall Gulch Trail 0.75 miles to the new Summerhaven parking area. Construct a Class 3 connector between the Marshall Gulch Trail and the 75 unit parking area proposed by Pima County and the Federal Highways Administration. The trail would become a segment of the Arizona National Scenic Trail.	This project addresses multiple goals of the project, including providing more beginner trail opportunities, linking trailheads to make best use of available parking, and ensuring the ANST conforms with its non-motorized purpose as identified by Congress.
	16D	Construct a Mount Lemmon Accessible Interpretive Trail. Construct a short Class 5 paved or concrete interpretive trail near the summit of Mount Lemmon. Interpretive themes along this accessible trail would be identified through a collaborative partnership with the University of Arizona, tribes, and other partners.	The summit of Mount Lemmon is a regular destination for visitors, but accessibility and available interpretive information are both limited. There are numerous themes and stories related to the indigenous, historical, and current use of the mountain that are not highlighted.
	17D	Renovate and Re-route the Samaniego Ridge Trail. This project would seek to restore usability of the Samaniego Trail and provide a top-to-bottom connector to replace CDO Trail. North of Walnut Spring, the trail descends the ridge on an extremely steep, brushy and unstainable alignment. Up to 2.5 miles of re-route would be necessary. The trail would link to the end of the 50 Year Trail on State Lands and become part of the Sun Corridor Trail.	The damage to the CDO Trail from the Bighorn Fire was substantial, and this plan is recommending the middle portion of the trail be closed and removed as an official trail. This is unfortunate based on the time and energy expended on the trail before the fire by the Tucson Off-Road Cyclists and Activists. Options to replace this lost connectivity are limited based on the rugged terrain. Upgrading the existing Samaniego Ridge Trail through re-routes would accomplish this largely with an existing trail corridor. The trail's location on a high ridge also makes it less susceptible to future wildfire and flooding events. The area's classification as Semi-Primitive NonMotorized requires recreation experiences availability in this area continue to emphasize solitude and self-reliance.
	18D	Assess feasible alignments for the Arizona National Scenic Trail that connect Summerhaven and Oracle Ridge.	Currently through-hikers on the ANST are required to walk on the Catalina Highway. In combination with the Marshall Gulch to Summerhaven connector, this project would minimize the co-location of the trail and roads to the degree possible.



CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST

Priority	Project ID	Project Description	Rationale
	19D	Re-route 1.4 miles of the lower Canada del Oro trail and add to Red Ridge Trail. This Class 2 re-route would move the northernmost portion of the CDO trail between Red Ridge Trail and NFS Road 736 from the bottom of the drainage to suitable terrain to the east. The trail segment would be joined to the Red Ridge Trail and renamed as such.	The CDO drainage is an area heavily impacted by the Bighorn Fire. While the middle portion of the CDO trail has been identified for removal from the official system, this lower segment is important for continuity. Its current location is not sustainable. This re-route will ensure that Red Ridge is connected to Charouleau Gap Road. The area's classification as Semi-Primitive NonMotorized requires recreation experiences availability in this area continue to emphasize solitude and self-reliance.
	20D	Adopt trails within Catalina State Park. Adopt 15 miles of trail into the NFS per the Catalina State Park Master Development Plan, including the proposed Alamo Canyon and 50 Year Loop Trails.	Catalina State Park is located on NFS lands. It is operated by Arizona State Parks and Trails under a Special Use Permit from the CNF. The park's recently accepted Master Development Plan identified trails for inclusion into the NFS. These trails would be fully maintained by the park and therefore are not included in this plan's 10% growth scenario.
	21D	Sun Corridor Trail. Work with Sun Corridor Trail Alliance and Pima County to identify a viable route for the Sun Corridor Trail through the district on system trails. Likely segments include all components of the ANST recommended mountain bike route (including proposed Vista Trail), Samaniego re-route, adopted trails in Golder Ranch System and the adopted Milagrosa trail. CNF will also work to identify a viable route from the boundary of Saguaro National Park to Milagrosa. Several options exist including connection to the Italian Trap segment of the ANST or new construction that connects with Tanque Verde Falls and Agua Caliente Trailheads. The trail (ranging in length from 6 to 18 miles depending on final location) would be designed, built, and maintained by Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation per written correspondence.	The Sun Corridor Trail is a proposed, long-distance non-motorized trail that connects Douglas, Arizona with Las Vegas, Nevada. The counties in Arizona have taken a leading role in planning the trail, forming the Sun Corridor Trail Alliance. The trail is approximately 1,500 miles long and broken into 6 segments. The trail is also co-located with Pima County's Tribute Trail and in some locations, proposed by the Alliance to be located along with the Arizona National Scenic Trail.



CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST

Trailhead and Access Project Listing

Priority	Project ID	Project Description	Rationale
	1A	Seek Permanent Legal Access to Milagrosa. Assist Pima County, as needed, secure permanent legal access to the Milagrosa Trail. A long-term parking and trailhead salutation should offer adequate parking, direct canyon access while minimizing impacts on surrounding neighborhoods.	Milagrosa Canyon was one of the most frequently mentioned locations during public sensing. As the east side of the Tucson metropolitan area grows, demand for access to this scenic area is likely to increase.
Top Near-Term Priority	2A	Seek Permanent Legal Access to the 50 Year Trail Area. Work with the Arizona Game and Fish Department, Pima County, and other partners to secure a permanent vehicular access route to the forest boundary and adequate trailhead partner.	There is no legal permanent access to the forest boundary between Catalina State Park and Charouleau Gap Road. The 50-year trail easement is set to expire in the late 2030's and the roads up to the forest boundary across state lands lack any form of easement. Future development in this area has the potential to eliminate both forest administrative and legal recreation access.
Top Near-Term Priority	3A	Construct Tanque Verde Falls Western Slope and Upper Trailheads. Implement the approved Tanque Verde Falls Recreation Enhancement Project, providing a more structured and high-quality recreation experience in this popular area at the base of Redington Pass. Includes 70 new parking spaces for passenger vehicles and trailer parking along with visitor information, sanitation, and associated amenities.	This project has been fully analyzed and approved by the CNF in 2020. The Tanque Verde Falls area is a heavily used dispersed recreation area without appropriate sanitation, visitor information, and other management controls. See the decision notice for full rationale for this project. This effort was originally identified in the 1986 Forest Plan and recommended again in the Collaborative Area Management Plan.
	4A	Seek Permanent Legal Access to the north end of Charouleau Gap Road. Secure legal access to the road through fee title or easement acquisition by working with willing landowners and partners like the Trust for Public Land.	The Charouleau Gap Road is one of two access points into the Santa Catalinas from the north near Oracle. It is a popular and important option for 4-wheel drive enthusiasts; the road has been adopted by Tucson Rough Riders. A decision by one of the private landowners to block the road would result in a practical sense of the loss of access to thousands of acres of NFS land due to the condition of the road to the south.



CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST

Priority	Project ID	Project Description	Rationale
	5A	Molino Trailhead Expansion. Improve the availability of parking and reduce the instance of unsafe roadside parking in Molino Basin by constructing a new lot with 20 to 25 parking spaces, and a pull through trailhead on the northeast side of Catalina Highway. Parking would be prohibited on the road shoulder. Amenities will include a restroom, trash service, visitor information, and agency presence. Seek approval to extend the standard amenity fee to the new site. Convert some day use parking at existing day use parking to overnight camping. Maintain designated fee-free parking for ANST users consistent with Mount Lemmon fee settlement agreement.	The popularity of the lower highway often results in parking demand exceeding available supply. Visitors then park in the road shoulders at a sharp curve in the highway. This project would increase parking capacity in a low impact location and minimize the frequency of unsafe access.
Top Near-Term Priority	6A	Hirabayashi Re-configuration. The distribution of day use and overnight parking would be modified within Gordon Hirabayashi Recreation Site in order to better provide opportunities for day use parking. This change would create campsites in the turnaround at the end of the facility, while re-purposing two campsites closer to the entrance as day use parking to add approximately 15 parking spaces.	Hirabayashi is a hub for trail access on the lower portion of the highway. Visitors use the site to access the ANST, Soldier and Bug Spring trails. The current layout and vehicle flow pattern is unclear and difficult to manage. The overall change would increase parking capacity without additional surface disturbance, while ensuring access for horse trailers.
	7A	Formalize and Expand Parking at the top of the Rose Canyon Access Road. An area to the northeast of the existing paved parking area on the shoulder of the road would be graded, paved, and striped to accommodate an additional 10 to 15 standard vehicle spaces.	This parking area sees regular use year-round. A connection to the proposed Vista Trail would increase demand. Hikers accessing Rose Canyon Lake would still be required to pay the use fee, consistent with the concession permit terms.



CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST

Priority	Project ID	Project Description	Rationale
	8A	<p>Better Utilize Palisades as a Trail Hub. A medium-sized existing parking lot around the Palisades Ranger Residence and Visitor Center is currently for administrative use only. This area would be improved, striped, and made available for visitor day use parking; this would provide an additional 12 parking spaces. Working with Pima County, the public signing from Catalina Highway would be improved to direct visitors to this area.</p> <p>Longer term, a conceptual plan would be developed to fully realize the recreation potential of the Palisades area. In response to visitor demand and partner interest, the site could include a reconstructed or improved visitor center, transit service in partnership and enhanced outdoor interpretation, drinking water, and restrooms.</p>	<p>Available parking is limited in the higher elevations. This area is often underutilized for administrative purposes. Making better use of the paved area would provide a natural location for access to the Palisades trail (via a new connection) and Tucson Vista Trail without costly construction. The visitor center is operated under a successful partnership with the Public Lands Interpretive Association.</p> <p>Realizing future potential would involve leveraging partnership with the University of Arizona's Steward Observatory, Pima Association of Governments, and others. This longer-term vision would provide a more welcoming, clear, and comfortable visitor portal for the higher elevations of the Catalinas to complete the offerings in Summerhaven. This enhanced degree of development would be focused at a location with pre-existing disturbances, utilities, and proximity to facilities on Organization Ridge.</p>
	9A	<p>Expand Sunset Trailhead Capacity. The full existing footprint of the parking area would be used to efficiently increase parking capacity. The road accessing the recreation residences would travel in the middle of two rows of perpendicular parking. This reconfiguration would provide an additional 8 to 10 parking spaces. Visitor use at this location will be monitoring; an engineering assessment will be completed to determine the feasibility of an expanded trailhead footprint if conditions dictate.</p>	<p>Sunset Trailhead provides access for hikers, bikers, climbers, and others to enjoy a beautiful, forested part of the high country. It is one of the most frequently congested based on the limited parking availability. The parking area provides access to the Raycreation climbing area and was identified by the climbing community as one of the top priorities for potential improvement.</p>
Top Near-Term Priority	10A	<p>Complete the Marshall Gulch Trailhead and Picnic Area Improvement Project. This project will re-develop the Marshall Gulch picnic area and trail access points through a one-way loop road design. It moves more of the parking facilities to the east side of Sabino Creek and removes parking that is currently on top of lower Marshall Gulch. In total, the new trailhead will offer 28 parking spaces and multiple picnic sites.</p>	<p>This project has been fully analyzed and approved by the Coronado NF in 2018. Marshall Gulch is among the most popular day use locations on Mount Lemmon. The project addresses a need to improve the safety of motorized and non-motorized travel with the site, provide more fluid circulation, and improve accessibility. Ecological riparian benefits are also anticipated.</p>



CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST

Priority	Project ID	Project Description	Rationale
	11A	Summerhaven - Sabino Canyon Park Road Project. The Federal Highways Administration is planning to construct a new day use and trailhead parking facility along Sabino Canyon Park road that would be operating by Pima County. This project includes the construction of a new paved parking lot consisting of 75 parking spaces, a kiosk for ANST information, a public restroom, and the improvement of Sabino Canyon Park Road to accommodate 21 new on-street parking spaces, an asphalt surface rehabilitation for approximately half a mile, and the installation of a 5-foot-wide pathway as part of the ANST. The project improvements will provide a new paved surface, roadway excavation, tree clearing, ditch construction/reconditioning to improve drainage, installation of culverts, a new public bathroom, and the installation of new street signage. More information available here: https://highways.dot.gov/federal-lands/projects/az/flap-pim-fr510-1 .	The purpose of this project is to improve multimodal access and safety to the Coronado NF and Summerhaven on Sabino Canyon Park Road from Carter Canyon Road to the USFS gate north of Marshall Gulch. This project is a partnership between Pima County and the Federal Highway Administration. It has been selected for funding through the Arizona Federal Highways. The project was identified during the congestion management study completed for the Summerhaven area.
	12A	Seek to expand Mount Lemmon summit parking at Radio Ridge Junction by working with Ski Valley. The existed unsurfaced parking and storage area along Ski Valley Road and its junction with Radio Ridge would be improved and defined in a manner that is consistent with Ski Valley's special use permit-related needs. Where possible, aesthetic improvements would be incorporated into the new parking area. This would also provide access to the proposed Mount Lemmon interpretive trail.	This location is one of the few disturbed locations capable of providing additional parking in a congested area. It is a frequent stop for first time visitors based on its location at the summit of the mountain and outstanding views. The location is included within the Special Use Permit boundary for Ski Valley.
	13A	Improve the parking area for the Arizona National Scenic Trail in Redington Pass. Offer primitive trailhead parking for cars and trailers. Improve signage at road and at trailhead working with Arizona Trail Association.	This project was identified in the Collaborative Area Management Plan for Redington Pass.



CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST

Supporting Actions

Priority	Project ID	Project Description	Rationale
	1S	Renovate the Visitor Information to All Trailheads leading into the Bighorn Sheep Management Area. Information should include content about the history of bighorn sheep management, wilderness stewardship, leave no trace ethics, and relevant rules and regulations (including no dogs and the off-trail travel prohibition). A specific location of emphasis would be the unauthorized Pusch Peak Trail, which is fully closed during the lambing season. This would be a partnership with Pima County and the Arizona Game and Fish Department.	The trailheads leading into the lower canyons of the Pusch Ridge Wilderness are extremely popular, together hosting tens of thousands of visitors per month. The interpretive information is unsightly, worn, and in some cases outdated.
	2S	Create a Visitor Information Portal on the Catalina Highway between Molino Canyon overlook and Molino Basin Trailhead. The former location of the Catalina Highway fee booth has substantial parking to provide needed visitor information. The pullout on the east side of the highway would include maps, wayfinding, introductory interpretation and other information. An electronic fee station could be provided here, with the required clarification of which recreation sites require a standard amenity fee.	No site currently serves as an easily accessible information portal that provides basic introductory information about the Catalina Highway and Mount Lemmon. With the high proportion of first-time visitors, this information is needed. A method for fee payment would provide convenience and is consistent with the terms of the Mount Lemmon fee-related settlement agreement.
	3S	Improve the Interpretive and Visitor Information at the Palisades Visitor Center. Work with the Public Lands Interpretive Association to improve the quality and relevancy of information at the visitor center.	Palisades has the opportunity to serve as an upper elevation recreation hub for the Catalinas. The existing visitor center can better serve those seeking information.



CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST

Priority	Project ID	Project Description	Rationale
Top Near-Term Priority	4S	Construct belay platforms and manage erosion at identified climbing crags. Select Crags Against Humanity as a pilot project to maintain approaches, reduce erosion, and construct stable native soil platforms to level and increase safety measures at the base of the crag. If this pilot is successful and the climbing community and CNF have the capacity to address more areas, other crags that are being considered for similar management include: Barnum Rock, Raycreation, Boneyard, Wall of Flying Scorpions, It Cliff, Sky Valley, and Chessman.	Approaches to climbing crags are identified as unauthorized trails, so partner groups like CASA are unable to construct or maintain these areas. By adopting crags, CASA and community members can protect the resources around the crags, create safer belay areas, and prevent further erosion. National policy for management of climbing opportunities on NFS lands, including wilderness, is expected shortly. Forest direction may change with the development of a climbing management plan specific to the Santa Catalinas.
	5S	Better define dispersed campsites on Mount Bigelow and limit off-road vehicle travel. This project would seek to limit motor vehicle access to the popular camping sites on Mount Bigelow Road to the road prism. Boulders and other barriers would be installed that limited driving off-road.	Limiting vehicles to the improved and defined surface will limit erosion and reduce the impacted footprint of campsites.
	6S	Remote rainwater collection system along the ANST. To address limited natural water sources, the ATA has developed an innovate remote rainwater collection system. This metal feature provides treatable water along the trail. Such a device has been requested north of Italian Spring. The facility would be analyzed through the Special Uses Program, with ATA taking on maintenance responsibility.	Long term changes to water availability are impacting long distance trail users. The remote rainwater collection system has proven an effective technique elsewhere along the ANST.



Priority	Project ID	Project Description	Rationale
	7S	Create a user allocation management system (odd/even days) on Aspen Draw Trail to mitigate user conflict. Develop and test a visitor use recommendation for the entirety of Aspen Draw Trail that specifies on weekends and holidays, the trail would be open to either mountain biking or hiking. For example, on odd days the trail would be open to hiking and not bicycling; on even days, vice versa. During the week both uses would be allowed. The trail would be signed at both ends. The USFS and our partners would undertake a public awareness campaign. This approach would be evaluated after one year with representatives from hiking and mountain biking organizations to determine its effectiveness.	Aspen Draw Trail was one of the most frequently mentioned locations for user conflict during public sensing. The trail's steep grade and mixed conifer forest type make it a popular option for both hikers and mountain bicyclists. However, poor sight lines and the volume of use make some user conflict inevitable even if all users followed standards of trail etiquette. Experimenting with a pilot project to allocate days is one low cost attempt to try and improve the situation. The alternating day recommendation would allow each type of user a chance for their desired experience. This method of allocating days to different uses has been proven effective at other popular shared use trails, including NFSTs like the Tahoe Rim Trail.
	8S	Seek partnership opportunities to expand transit and alternative transportation. Working with the Pima Association of Governments and other partners, the CNF will engage on options to establish transit service. This service may require modifications to existing parking areas, permitting arrangements, and other supporting actions. The details of any potential service is not known at this time.	Increasing use of the Catalina Highway and an interest in reducing private automobile use have made public transit an attractive option for decades. In 1997, Pima County passed a transportation bond aimed at bringing shuttle service to Mount Lemmon. While that concept ultimately was not implemented, there may be opportunities for partners to establish and operate equitable transit opportunities.



CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST

Project Spotlight #1: Tucson Vista Trail



Scenic view from the potential Tucson Vista Trail

Trail Working Titles: Tucson Vista

Design Parameters: Trail Class 3, shared use trail

Trail Length: Approximately 8.5 miles

Managed Uses: Mountain bike, pedestrian, equestrian

Typical Tread Width: 24" to 36", with some exceptions where old roadbeds are repurposed

Target Average Grade: 6% to 8%

Maximum Sustained Grade: 12% for 50'

Surface Type: Native soil. Firm and stable to provide reliable tread conditions. May require onsite borrow or imported natural materials from nearby

Access: Parking available at the top of the Rose Canyon Access Road, Palisades, Showers Point, Spencer Canyon, Whitetail, and Sunset Trailhead

Connects To: Green Mountain Trail, Palisades, Box Camp, Sunset, proposed Bear Wallow Trail



CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST

Targeted User Experience

Tucson Vista is a shared use non-motorized trail that is intended to provide convenient and scenic hiking, biking, running and horseback riding opportunities. It seeks to meet trail user objectives related to scenery, nature, and connectivity. The trail name is meant to clearly associate the trail with sweeping views of the Tucson metropolitan area from many locations on the trail.

The trail is intended as a marquee, all-ages, introductory trail experience in the higher elevations of the Santa Catalinas. Visitor information, including distance markers, should be direct, visible, and reassuring. Signage should be provided in Spanish and English.

The intended difficulty level is beginner. Where this is not possible due to side slopes that difficulty level will not exceed intermediate. Users of nearly all ability levels should be able to use some portion of the trail. However, the targeted experience is not for a fully accessible trail with non-native surfacing. The trail grades, surface, and distance will be clearly marked; this will allow those with some mobility limitations to determine their own capabilities.

If fully constructed, the trail could become the recommended route for mountain bikers on the Arizona National Scenic Trail avoiding the Pusch Ridge Wilderness. The Vista Trail would receive stewardship support from the Arizona Trail Association.

Anticipated Partners

Arizona Trail Association, National Forest Foundation, Tucson Off-Road Cyclists and Activists, Southern Arizona Hiking Club, National Forest Foundation



CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST

Project Spotlight #2: Golder Ranch - 50 Year Trail System



The 50 Year Trail System on the west foothills of the Santa Catalina Mountains

This plan recommends adoption of the popular, unofficial trail system located on CNF lands north of Catalina State Park and west of Golder Ranch at the terminus of the 50 Year Trail. After adoption into the CNF system, realignment, and improvements to existing trails the overall system would total up to 17 miles. This action would be complemented by an increased and holistic effort to fully document and steward cultural resources in the area. The existing system of unauthorized trails would require a full sustainability evaluation, and likely require reroutes or closures based on erosion or proximity to cultural resources before official adoption. The intended result is a shared use non-motorized system with permanent access that provides desirable recreation experiences.

The current system is an extensive network of unauthorized, non-motorized trails that center around the 50 Year Trail, which runs for approximately 7.6 miles from Catalina State Park north to the forest boundary. The 50 Year Trail is protected by a 50-year lease agreement between Arizona State Parks and Trails and the Arizona State Land Department which expires in 2038. There are approximately 18.35 miles of unauthorized trail on CNF lands adjacent to 50 Year Trail that are commonly referred to as the Golder Ranch trail system. Observations indicate the area is extremely popular, hosting hundreds of trail users on busy weekends. The area also has known game hunting opportunities.

The CNF and other public entities lack legal, permanent, public access to the boundary of the forest between Charouleau Gap Road and Catalina State Park due to the presence of approximately 1,700 acres of Arizona State Trust lands. Purchase of lands or interest in lands, such as an easement, is a fundamental requirement for long-term access to this



CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST

area that should be a top priority for trail partners. Should the 50 Year Trail easement expire and no public access has been secured, the CNF would re-evaluate trail maintenance investments and consider other management actions, including closure.

The area holds an important record of human and cultural history. Extensive rock art sites are found here and are particularly important to the Tohono O'odham. These sites are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. These areas would be avoided in terms of any new trail development, or official adoption of unauthorized trails. Additionally, access controls to important cultural resources would be enhanced in partnership with other organizations and the site steward program. Trail system development should be done in such a way so that it serves as a catalyst of, rather than a threat to, cultural resource preservation.

Managed Uses: Pedestrian, horseback riding, mountain bicycling

Trail Length: 17 miles in total, including a potential connector to Charouleau Gap Road

Surface Type: Natural surface

Target Average Grade: Less than 8% on constructed tread based on erodible soils such as decomposed granite; exceptions likely for bedrock areas

Anticipated Re-routes and Improvements: While much of the system is suitable for adoption, some segments of trail may be closed or realigned because they are heavily eroded and incised, provide poor sightlines, or have natural or cultural resource concerns

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum: Roaded Natural, Semi-primitive motorized and non-motorized depending on location

Targeted User Experience

This system would provide a well-known and well-loved shared use, stacked loop trail system in the frontcountry that offers unique experiences for hikers, runners, equestrians, and mountain bikers.

Access to the system from the south and east is on properly defined, beginner-friendly trails that offer outstanding views of the eastern face of the Santa Catalina Mountains and Samaniego Ridge. Trails range in difficulty throughout the system. In some locations, rock formations offer challenging technical features for mountain bikers. Good trailer access, proximity to home, and outstanding scenery make this a popular place for horseback riding. The layout of the system means trip lengths can be tailored and adjusted.



CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST

Trails are well signed; this combined with users' appreciation of the importance of the area's cultural resources mean that use off designated trails is rare and quickly remedied. Similar to other shared use trails systems managed by Pima County in Tucson Mountain Park or Sweetwater Preserve, the shared use nature of the system is widely understood and appreciated. Users come expecting to encounter other users and share the trail.

Anticipated Partners

County Line Riders, Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation, Tucson Off-Road Cyclists and Activists, Sonoran Desert Mountain Bicyclists, Southern Arizona Hiking Club (and other local hiking clubs), Archeology Southwest

Project Spotlight #3: Bug Junior



View from potential site of Bug Junior Trail



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Trail Working Titles: Bug Junior or Downdraft

Design Parameters: Trail Class 3, developed one-way singletrack bicycle trail

Trail Length: Approximately 5.5 miles

Managed Uses: Mountain bike, pedestrian (hiking and trail running)

Typical Tread Width: 12" to 30"

Target Average Grade: 6% to 12%

Maximum Sustained Grade: 15% for less than 50' due to highly erodible soils

Maximum Short Pitch Maximum Grade: 30%, on solid rock or highly armored

Surface Type: Native soil. Variable and loose in places. Relatively little onsite borrow based on soil conditions. Use natural hardening with native stone on berms and obstacles to minimize maintenance requirements. No imported materials or constructed features intended.

Access: Parking available at lower Green Mountain Trailhead, Bug Spring Trailhead, Hirabayashi

Connects To: Bug Spring

Targeted User Experience

Directional mountain bike trail that is intended to provide sustained descents and utilize natural technical features that the terrain provides. It seeks to provide trail user objectives related to challenge, nature, and scenery. It would be the only identified directional trail in the CNF and the only bike-optimized directional trail in southern Arizona with considerable elevation loss. The uniqueness of the trail experience would likely make it a draw for residents and visitors.

The intended difficulty level is black diamond, but within reach of riders of upper intermediate skill level. All features in the main line must be rollable, with no mandatory gaps.

While the trail has a designed use for directional mountain biking, pedestrian use including hiking and trail running may be appropriate with adequate signage (identifying the trail as recommended for bikes and directing pedestrians to yield to bikes) and a direction to hike/run uphill (with bikes being directed to travel downhill). This approach is consistent with the large majority of directional, bike-optimized trails that are located within popular shared use trail areas on federal lands. Should the final trail design preclude hiking use based on sight lines and safety considerations, the trail would only be open to mountain biking. This trail will not be suitable for equestrian use.

Anticipated Partners

Tucson Off-Road Cyclists and Activists, National Forest Foundation



CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST

Project Spotlight #4: Crags Against Humanity



*Rock climbing crag, Crags Against Humanity, just off the Catalina Highway.
Photo: Luke Bertelsen, Mountain Project*

Project Summary

Located low on Mount Lemmon, Crags Against Humanity is a popular rock climbing area for all levels (route grades spanning from 5.5 to 5.12). The crag is accessed immediately off the Catalina Highway, with a pullout for parking just below the wall.

The following improvements are proposed:

- **Approach:** Maintain and improve the short, rocky approach to the wall. Create sustainable access routes to reduce erosion and resource damage.
- **Belay Area:** Maintain and improve the belay area at the base of the crag to reduce further soil erosion and resource damage, increase safety for climbers, and contain the area of impact.
- **Signage:** Include signage regarding climbing etiquette and Leave No Trace principles. This will benefit all climbers as a regular reminder, but it will especially be useful for beginner climbers who may still be learning outdoor skills. Signage will also educate curious non-climbers that see the activity in this highly visible area.

Access: Parking is available just below the crag, in a pullout off the Catalina Highway (unlined parking spaces for approximately 10 vehicles)

Designed Use: Pedestrian

Surface Type: Native soil

Anticipated Partners: Climbing Association of Southern Arizona, Public Lands Interpretive Association, National Forest Foundation



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Project Spotlight #5: Mount Lemmon Interpretive Trail



View near the summit on Mount Lemmon

Trail Working Titles: Mount Lemmon Interpretive Trail

Design Parameters: Trail Class 5, highly developed

Trail Length: Approximately 500'

Designated Use: Pedestrian

Surface Type: Asphalt or concrete

Typical Tread Width: 36" with turnouts

Target Average Grade: Under 5%, consistent with Forest Service Trail Accessibility Guidelines

Access: Parking available at the junction of Ski Valley and Radio Ridge roads

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum: Roaded Natural

Targeted User Experience

This trail should provide an expansive, high elevation experience for those with limited mobility. It would serve as a regular stop for first-time visitors seeking to understand the indigenous and historical context of the Santa Catalinas and Mount Lemmon. Bilingual signs would highlight interpretive themes identified through collaboration. Tribes with a connection to the area would be welcomed to partner on the project.

Anticipated Partners

University of Arizona, Public Lands Interpretive Association, National Forest Foundation, Tribal Partners



CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST

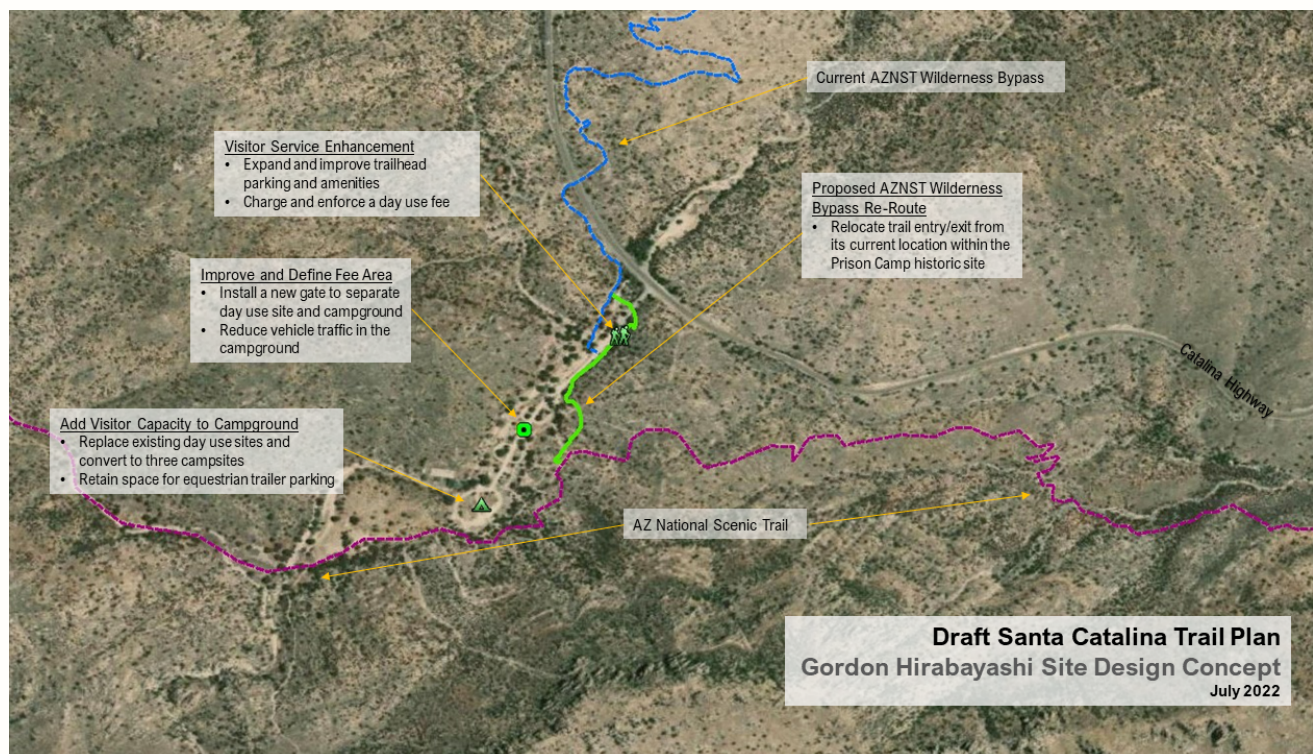
Project Spotlight #6: Gordon Hirabayashi Reconfiguration

Project Summary

Gordon Hirabayashi Recreation Site is one of the most popular locations on the lower half of the Catalina Highway. It serves as an important access point to the ANST, especially for equestrians. A reconfiguration of day use parking and campsites would resolve several interrelated issues at the site. These include:

- Insufficient quantity of day use parking
- Confusion around where fees are required
- Inappropriate mountain bicycling use of the interpretive trail and impacts to the historic site
- Day use vehicle traffic through the campground causing dust and noise

The proposed reconfiguration pushes camping to back to the southern portion of the site, freeing up day use parking capacity closer to the highway. The project involves essentially no new ground disturbance.



Gordon Hirabayashi Site Design Concept map, July 2022



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Project Design Features

The following project design features will be incorporated on the project level, as applicable:

Recreation

- Projects should rely on the “Coronado National Forest Transition Plan” (USDA FS 2006), “Forest Service Outdoor Recreation Accessibility Guidelines” (USDA FS 2013a), and “Forest Service Trail Accessibility Guidelines” (USDA FS 2013b) to improve accessibility for visitors.
- Notify the public and recreation users when projects are expected to impact or interfere with regular recreation use.

Scenery

- Projects should use the scenery management system implementation guide during project design and planning.
- Facilities should be designed to complement the landscape by siting them to reduce scenic impacts, using dark, neutral colors, and repeating the line, form, texture, pattern, and scale of the landscape to blend structures into their surroundings.

Cultural Resources

- Archeological surveys and clearances will be obtained prior to ground disturbing activities.
- All sites unevaluated or eligible to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) would be avoided by all ground-disturbing activities.
- Archaeological site conditions should be monitored after project implementation to address potential looting and vandalism due to increased traffic and visibility.
- Should any previously unidentified cultural materials be discovered during project implementation, work must cease immediately, and the Forest Archaeologist must be contacted to initiate the consultation process as outlined in the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Regulations (36 CFR Part 800.13).
- Unauthorized trails identified for closure and restoration will be evaluated for cultural resources inventory and survey needs prior to implementation.

Wildlife

- Where existing or current survey is not already available, Mexican spotted owl surveys would be coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to determine occupancy of owls in the project area during implementation. Surveys include the project footprint plus ½ mile beyond the perimeter of the project boundary.
- To minimize disturbance to the Mexican spotted owl, any construction would not occur within 0.25 miles of known nest or roost locations during the breeding season (March 1 to August 31). If the nest/roost site is unknown, where feasible, these activities would not occur within 0.25 mile of the boundary of designated nesting areas (known as a Protected Activity Centers or PACs).



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- Minimize removal of key components of Mexican spotted owl habitat during project activities including hardwoods and large trees, snags and logs, consistent with the Recovery Plan.
- When installing toilets or signposts, ensure that all open top vertical pipes with an inside diameter greater than 1 inch should be capped or otherwise designed to prevent animal entrapments (FW-WFP-G 7).
- No event camping will be permitted within Mexican Spotted Owl Protected Activity Centers at any time.

Non-native Plants

- For new construction, decommissioning and restoration, all equipment to be used off of system roads would be cleaned prior to entering Forest Service lands. This is to reduce the likelihood of introduction or spread of non-native invasive plants. In all project related contracts, include provisions that require equipment cleaning before project implementation.
- Avoid routing trail through known infestations of non-native invasive plants or treat them before putting in trail.
- Where available, any plant materials used for decommissioning and restoration would be from on-site sources (chipped wood, etc.). All plant material from off-site sources (straw, mulch, etc.) must be certified weed free.



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Soils and Other Resources

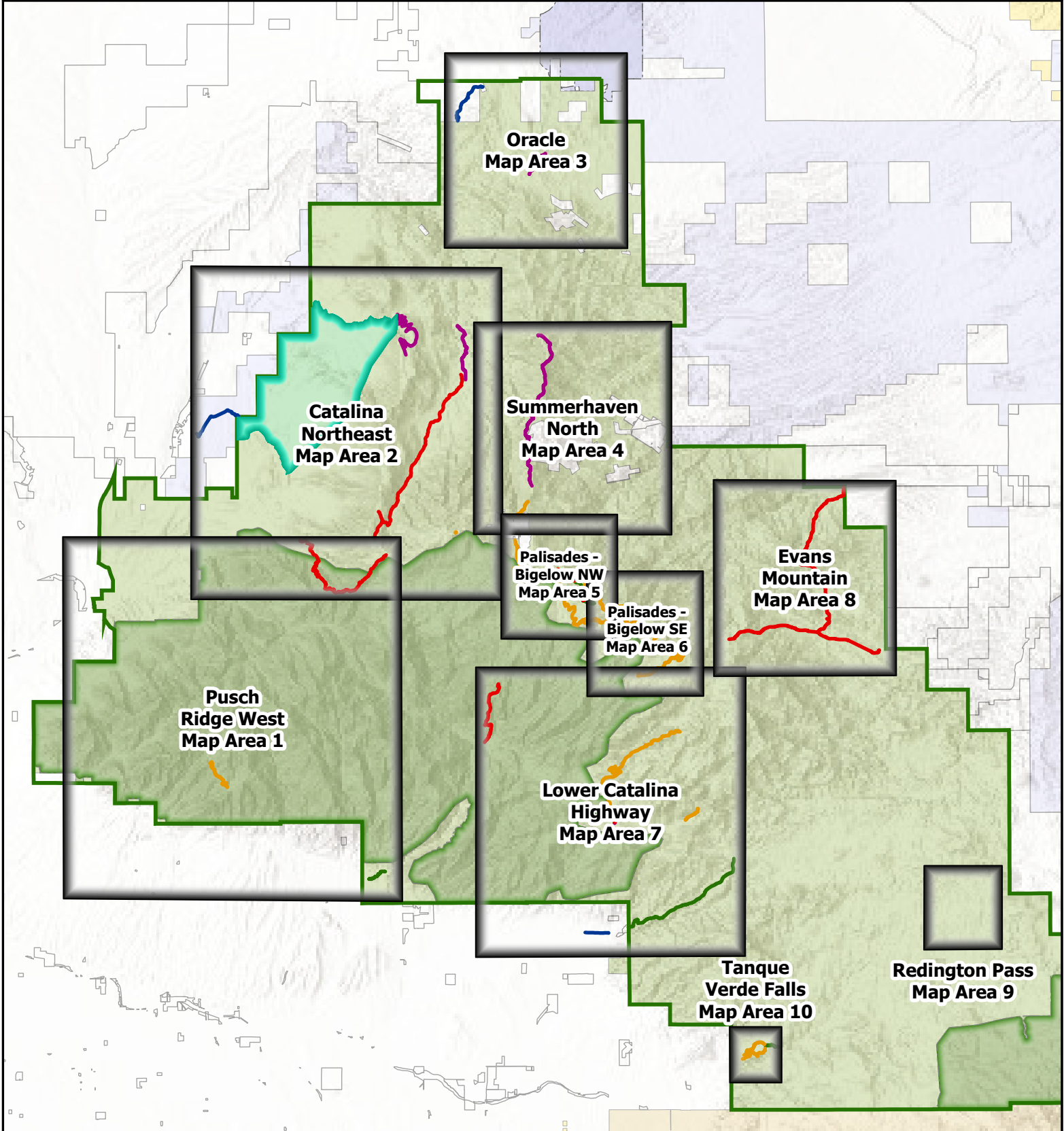
- Trail Construction will follow all applicable best management practices (BMPs) for motorized and nonmotorized trails outlined in FS-990a, National Best Management Practices for Water Quality Management on National Forest System Lands (pg 91-93)
- Locate or relocate trails to conform to the terrain, provide suitable drainage, provide adequate pollutant filtering between the trail and nearby waterbodies, and reduce potential adverse effects to soil, or riparian resources.
- Locate new trail segments on hill contours as much as possible. Out-slope tread surface, with grade reversals and rolling dips to decrease and minimize sediment production and transport.
- Stabilize slopes, creating natural vegetation buffers, diverting runoff from exposed areas, controlling the volume and velocity of runoff, and conveying that runoff away from the construction area to reduce erosion.
- After wildfires in areas of high or moderate soil burn severity, trail construction will not begin until at least four seasons after the wildfire. If construction is planned within less than four seasons, coordination will occur with the Forest Hydrologist for evaluation and to ensure proposer mitigations are in place for these areas.
- In areas of high traffic or steep slopes, armor the trail with large material and increase the occurrences of gradient reversal.
- Locate new trail segments away from drainage bottoms in an upland position. Distance away from stream channel should increase if trail is located on soils with moderate or severe erosion potential.
- Minimize drainage crossings and try to cross drainage as close to perpendicular as possible. Utilize rock and wood to stabilize streambanks where trails cross streams.
- Avoid the use of equipment and machines during wet months when soil saturation and water levels are high. Limit use of National Forest System land for event staging and encourage staging off of National Forest System land.
- Trails passing through cattle allotment and pasture fencing will have proper gates installed that accommodate equestrians and pack stock, gates should be at least 6 feet wide and designed to be closed easily from horseback.





Santa Catalina Trail Plan

Coronado National Forest | Santa Catalina Ranger District



Index Map

Proposed Trail Changes

- Access
- Adoption
- New Construction

- Reroute
- Removed from NFS
- Map Areas
- Golder Ranch Project Area

- Coronado NF Boundary
- Wilderness
- Forest Service Lands

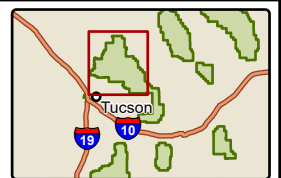
- State Public Lands
- Other State Lands
- Bureau of Land Management Lands
- National Park Service Lands
- Private Lands



0 1 2 3 Miles

NAD 1983 UTM Zone 12N

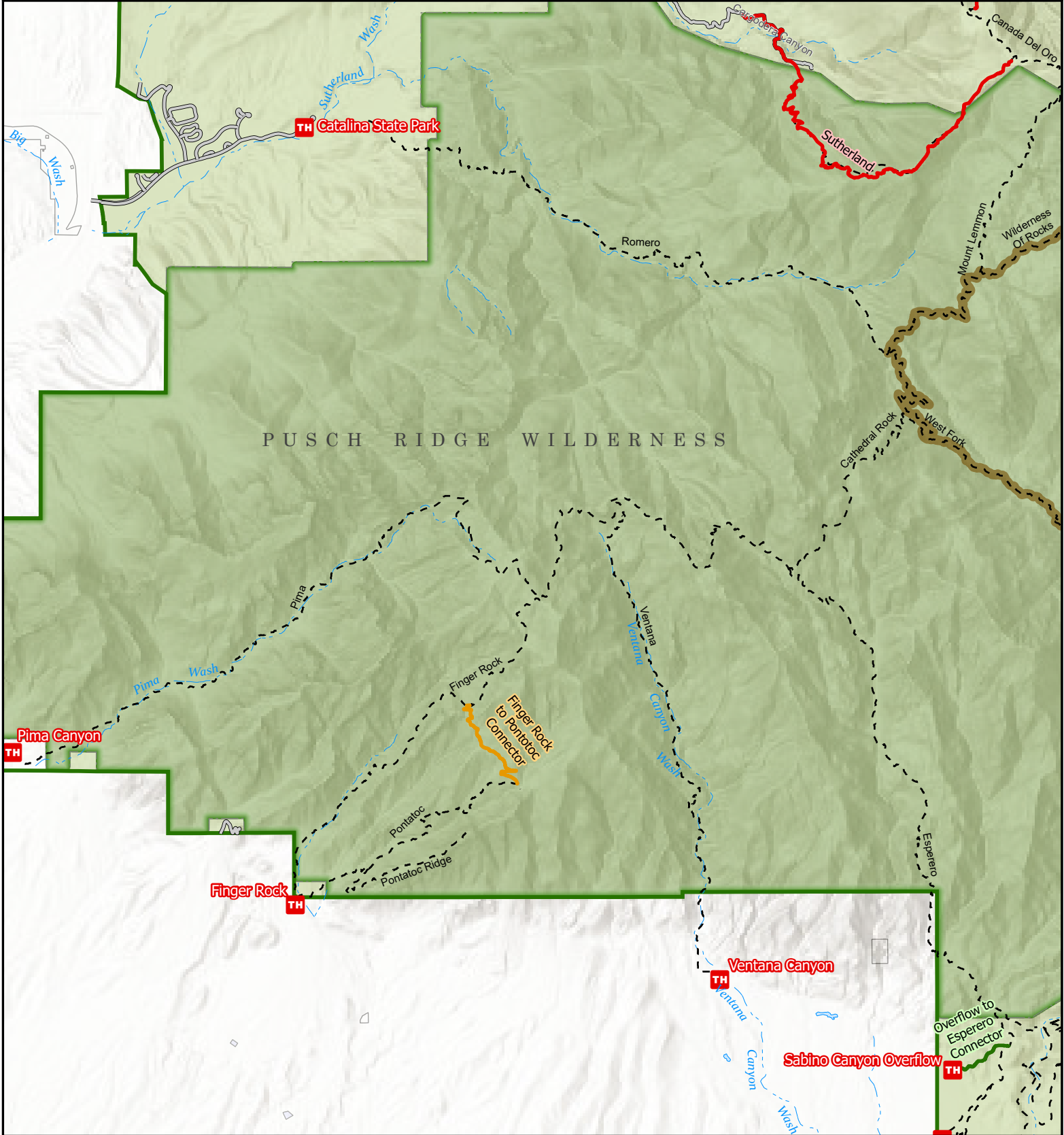
10/28/2022





Santa Catalina Trail Plan

Coronado National Forest | Santa Catalina Ranger District



Pusch Ridge West Map Area 1

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles
NAD 1983 UTM Zone 12N
10/27/2022

Proposed Trail Changes

- Adoption
- New Construction
- Removed from NFS

TH Trailhead

Trail

Arizona National Scenic Trail

Road

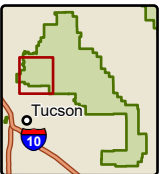
Coronado NF Boundary

Wilderness

Forest Service Lands

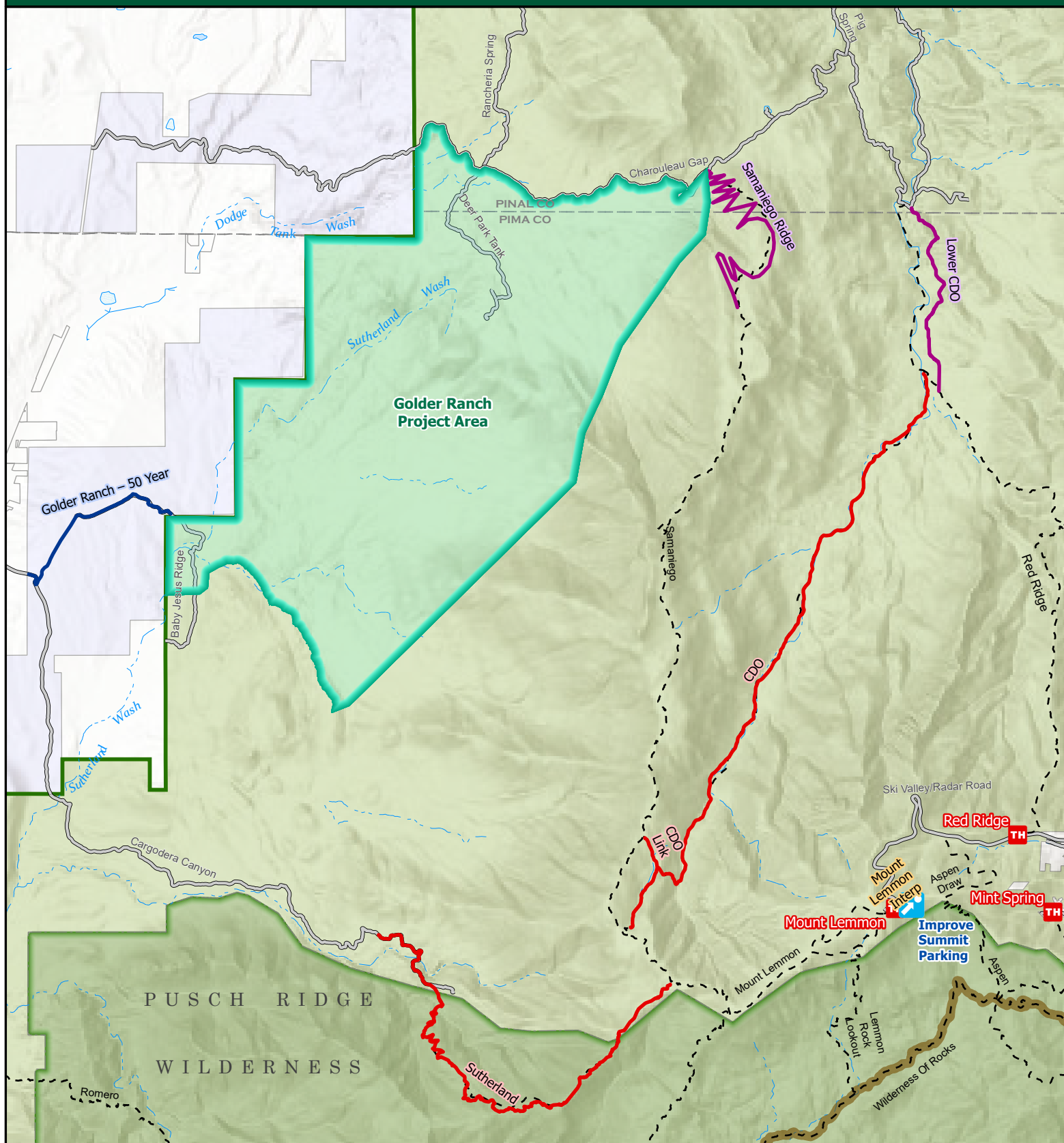
Other State Lands

Private Lands

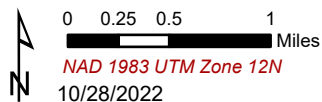


Santa Catalina Trail Plan

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Catalina Northeast Map Area 2








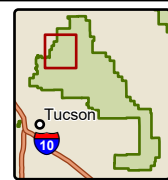
Proposed Trail Changes

-  Access
-  New Construction
-  Reroute
-  Removed from NFS

-  **Golden Ranch Project Area**
-  **Proposed Trailhead/
Parking Changes**
-  **Trailhead**

- Trail
Arizona National
Scenic Trail
Road

-  Forest Service Lands
-  Wilderness
-  Coronado NF Boundary
-  Other State Lands
-  Private Lands

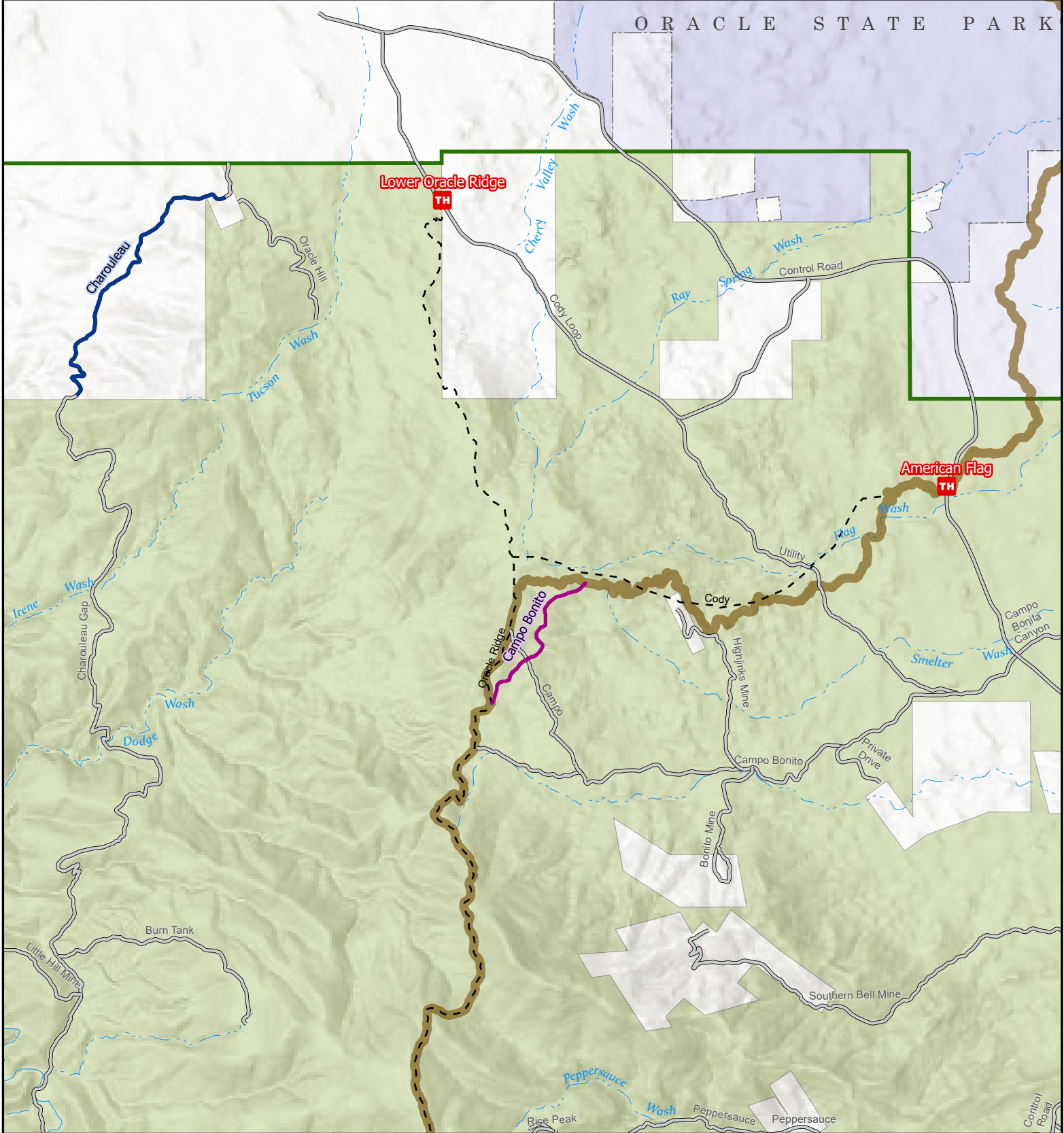




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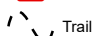
Oracle Map Area 3

Proposed Trail Changes

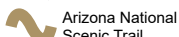
- Access
- Reroute



Trailhead



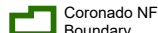
Trail



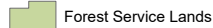
Arizona National Scenic Trail



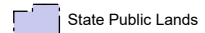
Road



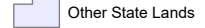
Coronado NF Boundary



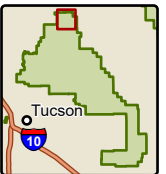
Forest Service Lands



State Public Lands



Other State Lands



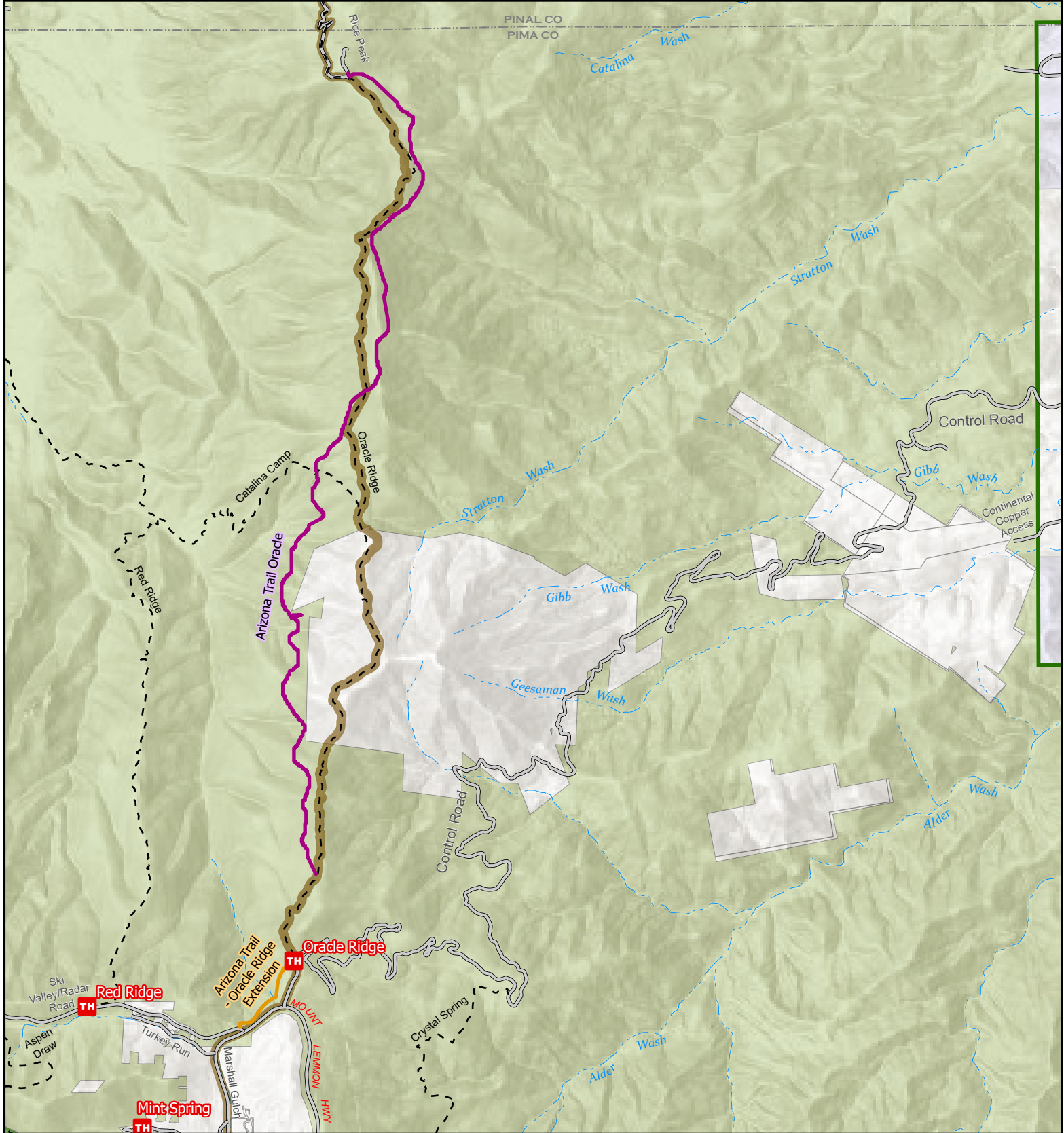
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Miles
NAD 1983 UTM Zone 12N
10/27/2022



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Summerhaven North Map Area 4

0 0.15 0.3 0.6
Miles
NAD 1983 UTM Zone 12N
10/27/2022

Proposed Trail Changes

- New Construction
- Reroute

TH Trailhead

Trail

Arizona National Scenic Trail

Road

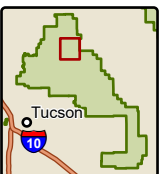
Coronado NF Boundary

Wilderness

Forest Service Lands

Other State Lands

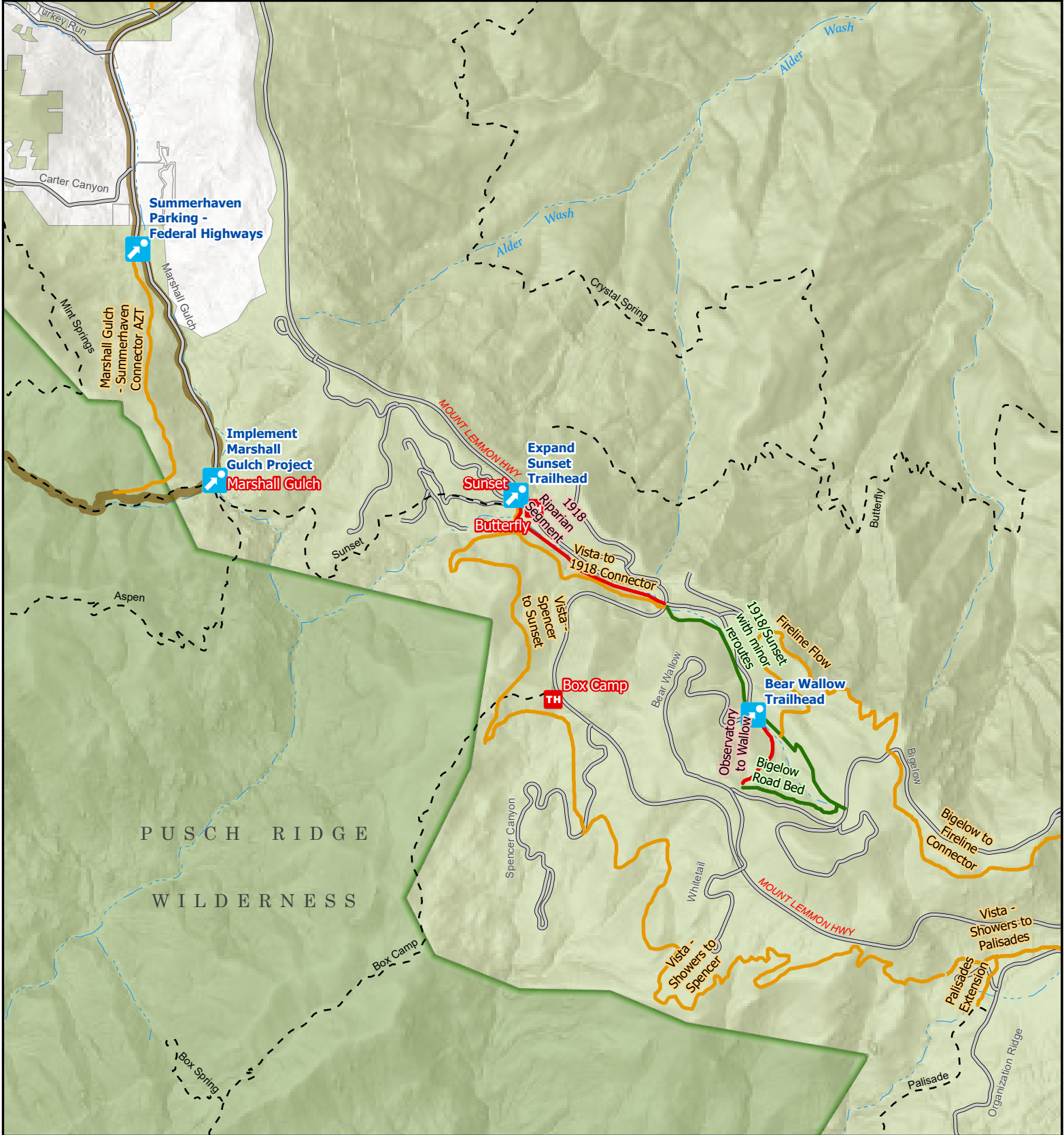
Private Lands





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Palisades - Bigelow NE Map Area 5

0 0.1 0.2 0.4
Miles
NAD 1983 UTM Zone 12N
10/27/2022

Proposed Trail Changes

- Adoption
- New Construction
- Removed from NFS

- Proposed Trailhead/
Parking Changes
- Trailhead
- Trail
- Arizona National
Scenic Trail

- Road
- Coronado NF
Boundary
- Wilderness
- Forest Service Lands

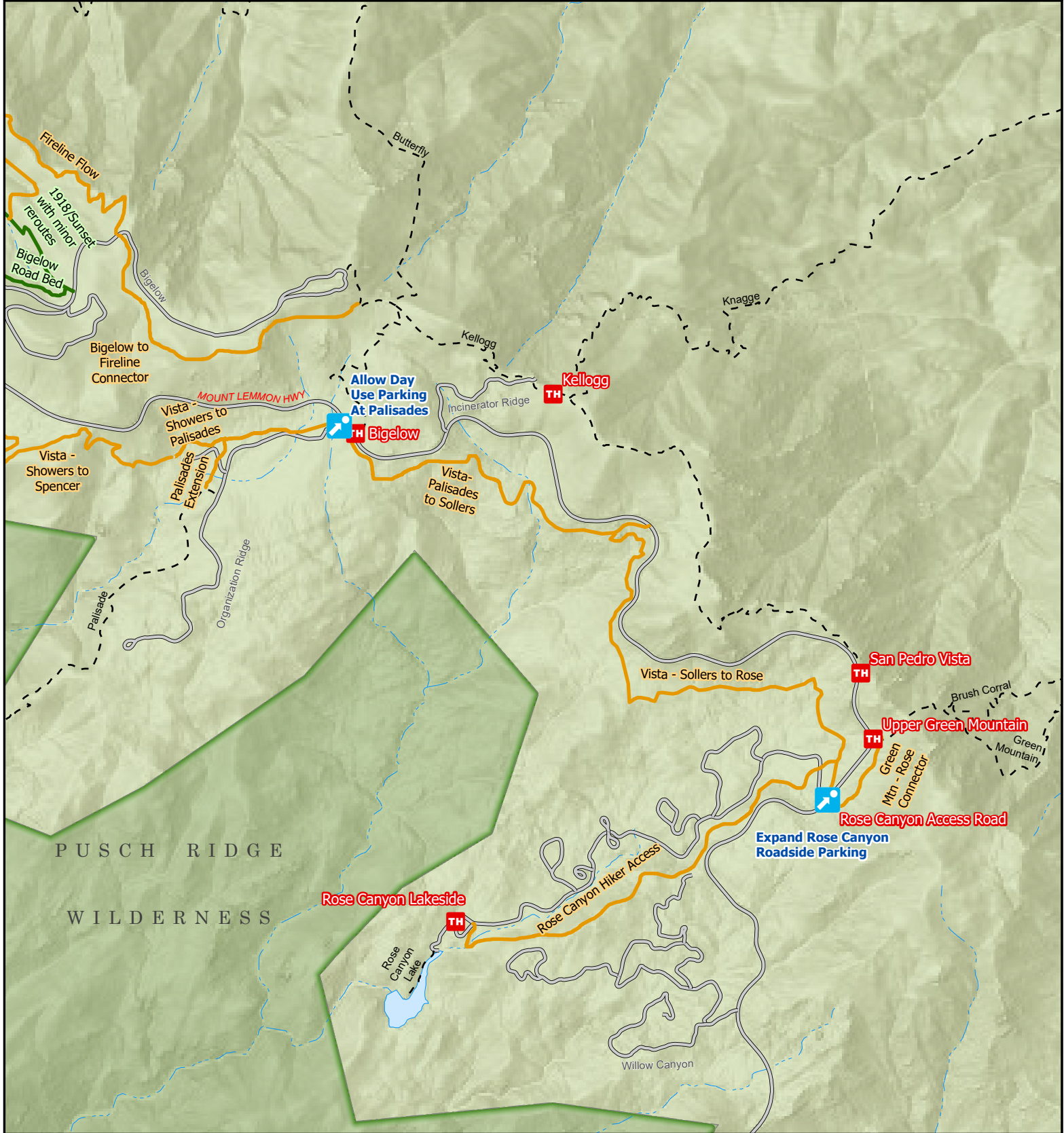
- Private Lands





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Palisades - Bigelow SE Map Area 6

0 0.1 0.2 0.4 Miles
NAD 1983 UTM Zone 12N
10/28/2022

Proposed Trail Changes

- Adoption
- New Construction

Proposed Trailhead/ Parking Changes

- Trailhead

Road

- Coronado NF Boundary
- Wilderness
- Forest Service Lands

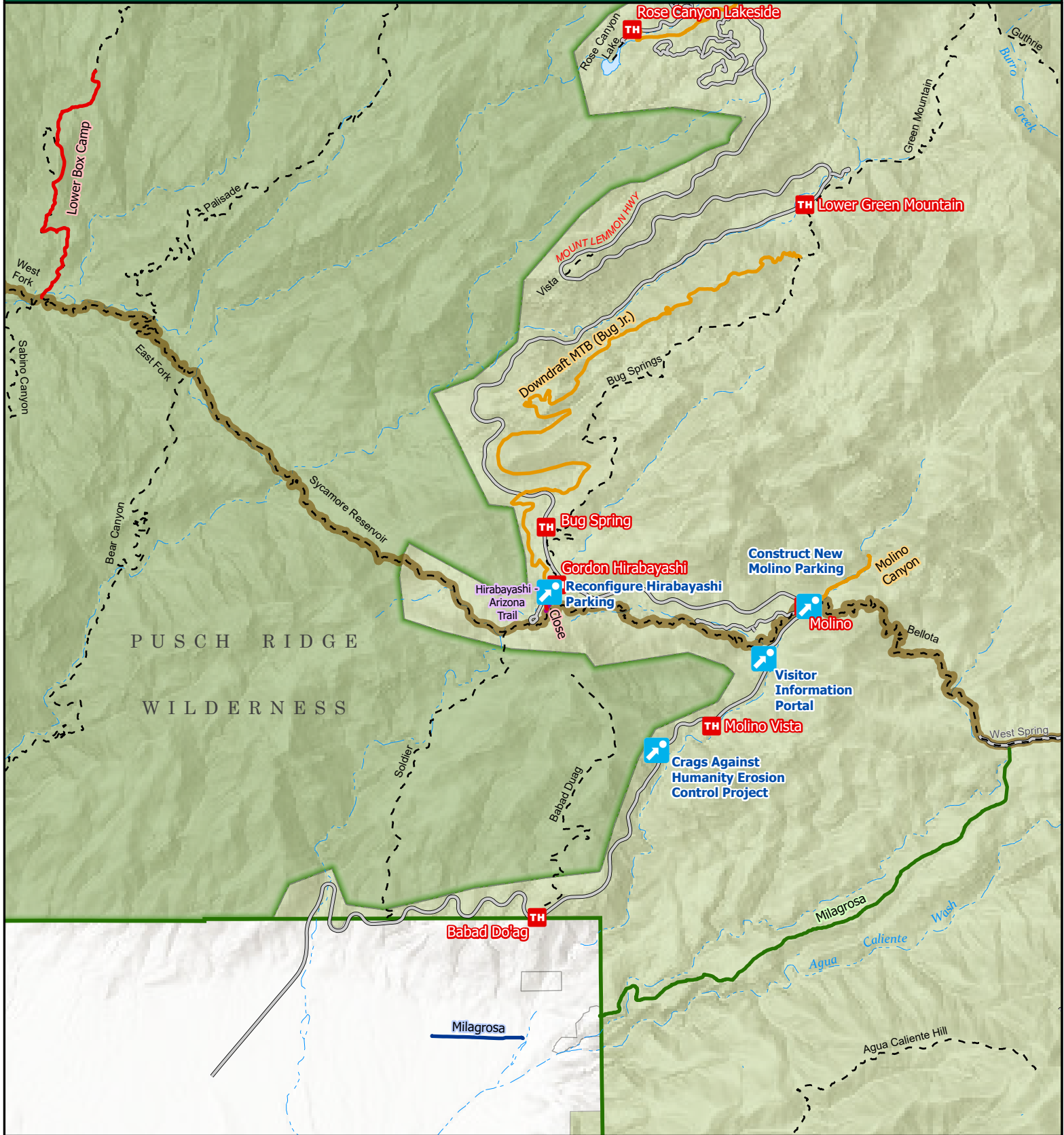




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Lower Catalina Highway Map Area 7

0 0.2 0.4 0.8
Miles
NAD 1983 UTM Zone 12N
10/27/2022

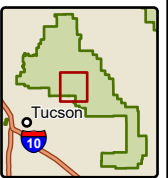
Proposed Trail Changes

- Access
- Adoption
- New Construction
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- Removed from NFS

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Parking Changes
- Trailhead
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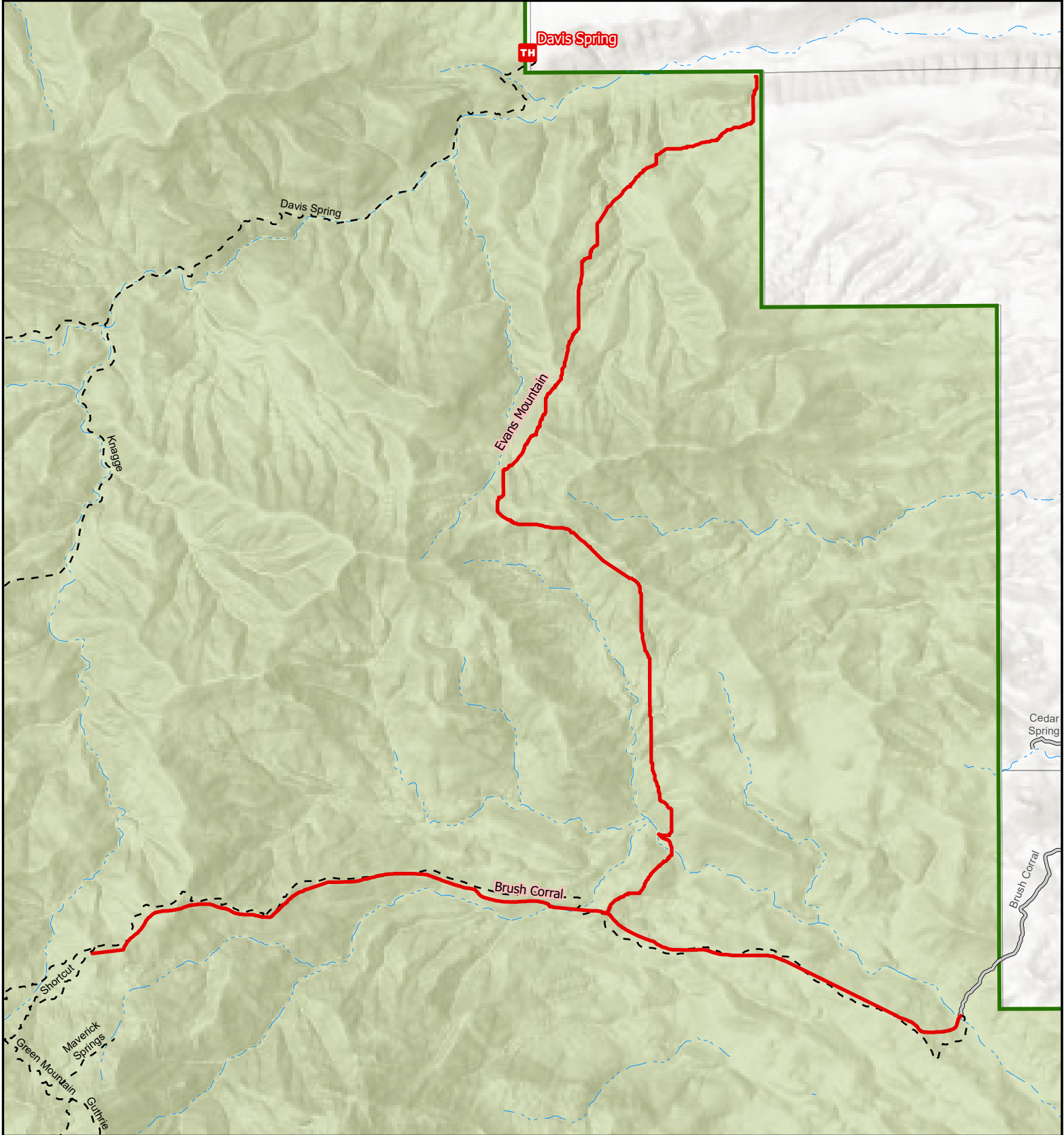




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Evans Mountain Map Area 8

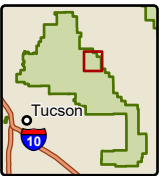
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Miles
NAD 1983 UTM Zone 12N
10/27/2022

Proposed Trail Change
Removed from NFS

TH Trailhead
Trail
Road

Coronado NF
Boundary
Forest Service Lands

Private Lands





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Redington Pass Map Area 9



0 0.1 0.2 0.3
Miles

NAD 1983 UTM Zone 12N

10/27/2022



Proposed Trailhead/
Parking Change



Trailhead



Trail



Arizona National
Scenic Trail



Road

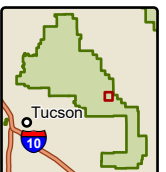


Coronado NF
Boundary



Forest Service Lands

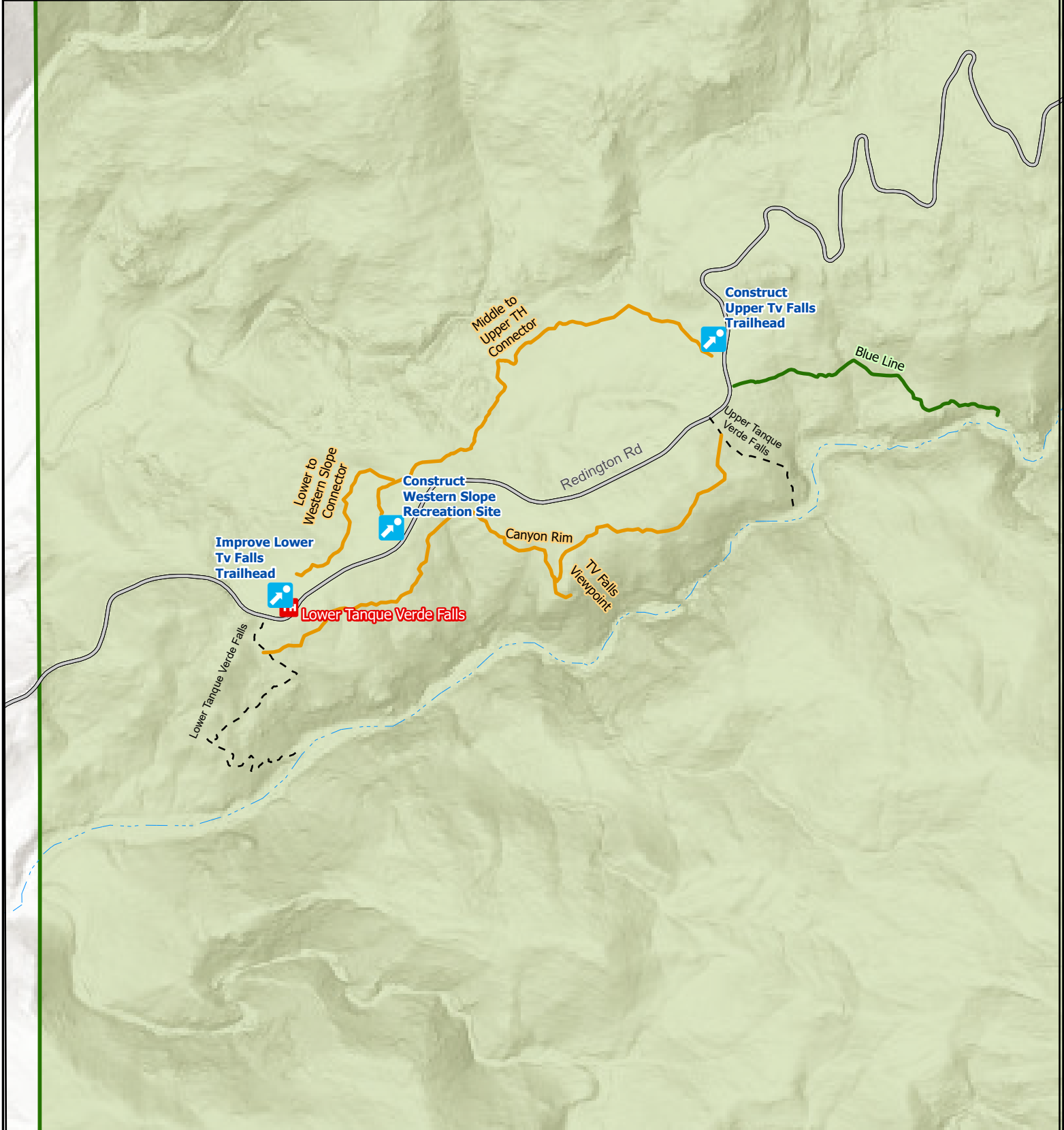
World Hillshade





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Tanque Verde Falls Map Area 10

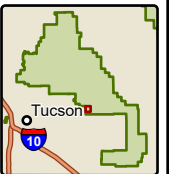
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NAD 1983 UTM Zone 12N
10/27/2022

Proposed Trail Change

- Adoption
- New Construction
- Proposed Trailhead/
Parking Change

- TH Trailhead
- Trail
- Road

- Coronado NF Boundary
- Forest Service Lands
- World Hillshade



Appendices and Supporting Information

Forest Service Management Tools

The Forest Service incorporates several standardized trail management concepts and tools in the administration and management of over 150,000 miles of NFS trails. These tools help ensure that each trail is designed, constructed, and maintained to provide the desired user experience and meet the management intent for the trail. These include:

- The five Trail Fundamentals: Trail Type, Trail Class, Managed Use, Designed Use, and Trail Design Parameters
- Trail Assessment and Condition Surveys (TRACS)
- Standard Trail Plans and Specifications
- Forest Service Trail Accessibility Guidelines

These concepts will not be summarized in this place but are available here for review: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/trails/trail-management-tools>

Relevant Direction from the Forest Plan

Desired Conditions for Santa Catalina Ecosystem Management Area

(Coronado National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, 2018)

The Santa Catalina Ecosystem Management Area offers a wide spectrum of developed recreation opportunities for a growing population, while large tracts of undeveloped areas remain for primitive and dispersed recreation. In the Sabino Canyon Recreation Area, developed recreation opportunities exist along the roadways, including access to the biologically rich Sabino Creek, and opportunities for dispersed and quiet recreation exist away from the main travel corridors. In the Redington Pass area, backcountry-touring routes are available for visitors who operate off-highway and all-terrain vehicles responsibly. Visitors to this area can enjoy the outdoors in clean, natural settings without conflicts with unsafe or illegal activities or exposure to excessive noise and disturbance. Recreational target shooting occurs in safe and well-monitored locations. The Sky Island Scenic Byway retains the qualities that earned national designation as a scenic byway. It provides year-round vehicular access to outstanding natural scenery and high elevations for a variety of developed and undeveloped recreational opportunities, as well as access to the community of Summerhaven. Interpretive signs help visitors learn about conservation of the natural and cultural resources in the area.

Fishing opportunities at Rose Canyon Lake are available to the public. Water based recreational activities do not contribute to the spread of invasive aquatic species. Up-to-date, locally focused, and science based natural and cultural information is available to visitors at the Palisades and Sabino Canyon Visitor Centers. Watersheds provide high quality surface and ground water flows. Recreation residences and organization camps



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blend well with the natural landscape and do not expand beyond their authorized footprints. The geologic features and rock formations that dominate the Santa Catalina scenery sustain a rich heritage of rock climbing. Recreation user groups use practices that decrease the likelihood of resource damage and abide by restrictions needed for wildlife protection. Ski Valley offers periodic snow based and other year-round recreation opportunities. The Arizona National Scenic Trail offers opportunities for hiking, cycling, and horseback riding across the ecosystem management area along a continuous north-south trending transect. The dark skies above the Santa Catalina Ecosystem Management Area present conditions conducive to astronomical research. Existing telescopes offer educational opportunities and promote scientific discovery.

Small stands of corkbark fir exist on cool, wet sites at the highest elevations. A complex assemblage of endemic pine trees exist in the Santa Catalina Ecosystem Management Area. Buehman Canyon retains the characteristics required to be designated an “Outstanding Arizona Water” by Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. Sabino Creek supports a diverse assemblage of native aquatic species. Habitat exists for bighorn sheep, Gould’s wild turkey, and Santa Catalina gray squirrel. Unique vegetation species are perpetuated in the Santa Catalina, Butterfly, and proposed Finger Rock Canyon Research Natural Areas. The unique values of Alder Canyon are perpetuated.

Desired Conditions for Recreation on the Coronado National Forest

(Coronado National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, 2018)

The diverse landscapes of the Coronado National Forest offer a variety of settings for a broad range of recreational opportunities and a place for visitors to escape from busy urban life into quiet, natural, wild places. Landscapes range from primitive settings that provide opportunities for solitude to more developed, rustic settings that provide opportunities for social interaction and greater human comforts. Although development and population in the region continue to grow, recreation settings on the Coronado National Forest are stable, retaining their natural character, and loss of remote, undeveloped settings does not occur. Recreation activities are balanced with the ability of the land to support them and create minimal user conflicts. The Coronado National Forest fulfills a unique and vital role as a place of learning and caring about the environment.

Demand for recreation is accommodated within the capacity of the land to support it, and areas that can accommodate additional use, such as at Peña Blanca Lake, are fully utilized. Recreation on the Coronado National Forest enhances the quality of life for residents and provides tourist destinations, which contribute to local economies. Interpretation and visitor education programs help visitors understand how to reduce their impacts on ecosystems, and visitors actively help support the Coronado National Forest’s efforts to protect natural resources and wilderness values.



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Low-impact recreation principles are promoted and widely practiced by the visiting public.

Developed recreation facilities such as campgrounds and picnic areas provide a range of visitor needs; most areas have simple facilities like picnic tables and vault toilets, while some offer additional amenities such as paved roads, flush toilets, and recreational vehicle hookups. Recreation facilities are clean, in good repair, and provide a safe setting for visitors. Most meet accessibility guidelines. Visitor centers are open to the public on busy days and provide places where visitors can find information and learn about natural and cultural resources on the Coronado National Forest. Heritage sites provide unique opportunities for visitors to connect with the past. Interpretive features help people learn about the special places they visit. Facilities and infrastructure are maintained and replaced as needed. Developed sites blend with the natural setting and uses in these places do not cause damage to ecologically sensitive areas.

Special use permits augment the variety of suitable outdoor recreation experiences on the Coronado National Forest. Permitted facilities blend well into the natural landscape.

Dispersed recreation activities on the Coronado National Forest include hiking, viewing natural features and wildlife, relaxing, driving for pleasure, nature study, picnicking, camping, off-highway vehicle riding, fishing, and hunting, among others. Visitors use off-highway vehicles responsibly, staying on designated routes and in identified camping areas. Forest-wide dispersed recreation sites are small and clean, and resource damage is minimal. Managed activities such as paintballing, geocaching, and rock climbing do not permanently detract from the natural character of the national forest or adversely affect resources.

Opportunities exist for motorized recreation where designated, with varying experiences for a variety of vehicle classes. Forest visitors can enjoy semi-primitive motorized recreation and explore the backcountry in off-highway vehicles along designated routes. Noise from motorized vehicles is infrequent in locations away from areas of higher road density. In other areas, the presence and impact of people and machines is unobtrusive. These areas offer nonmotorized recreation opportunities in a variety of settings that provide differing levels of challenge and seclusion, while limited primitive or high-clearance roads allow for motorized access.

Places such as Redington Pass that receive heavy dispersed recreation use and are within easy driving distance of urban areas provide opportunities for safe, well-managed recreation. Visitors to these areas can enjoy the outdoors in clean, natural settings without conflicts with unsafe or illegal activities, or exposure to excessive noise and disturbance.



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A system of well-marked and well-maintained nonmotorized trails provides opportunities for visitors to explore the Coronado's wilderness areas and other places without roads. Wilderness and other settings where visitors can experience quiet and solitude are well dispersed throughout the national forest and easily accessed. Roads to trailheads are open and maintained, and trailheads provide adequate parking and vehicle turnaround space. Damage to resources from trailheads and trails is minimal. Historic trails are preserved and reestablished where appropriate and feasible. Unauthorized user-created ("wildcat") trails are rare.

Visitors enjoy the beautiful scenery, while understanding that fire and vegetation management projects are necessary for the health of vegetation communities within the forest landscape. Recreation sites and settings along the international border with Mexico are clean and border security infrastructure blends well with the landscape. Visitors understand the risks associated with illegal border activity and are informed about appropriate safety precautions.

Objectives for Recreation Management

1. Install wildlife-resistant trash cans at all developed recreation areas and wildlife-resistant food storage boxes at all developed campgrounds within 10 years of plan approval.
2. Evaluate 5 percent of recreation sites annually for conformity with Region 3 Sustainable Recreation Strategy Performance and Accomplishment Measures as applicable.
3. Provide opportunities for volunteers to participate in recreation planning, project implementation, or operations and maintenance at 15 to 30 recreation sites or facilities annually.
4. Manage wilderness areas to minimum stewardship level within 10-years of plan implementation.

Guidelines for Recreation Management

1. The recreation opportunity spectrum framework for guiding recreation planning and management and the Coronado National Forest recreation opportunity spectrum maps should be incorporated into project designs as they are planned and implemented.
2. Recreation sites should be managed for capacities that do not cause unacceptable resource damage or affect the landscape character.
3. When possible, activities that affect visitors should be scheduled outside of the major recreation season.
4. The Coronado National Forest paint color guidelines, the Forest Service's "Built Environment Image Guide" (USDA FS 2001) and the "Coronado National Forest Architectural Guidelines for Recreation Residences" (USDA FS 2015a) should be used for public and private facilities across the Coronado.



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5. In recreation areas popular with Spanish-speaking visitors, information should be provided in both English and Spanish.
6. Rock climbing should be managed to balance demand for the activity and the need to protect plants, animals, and other natural resources.

Developed Recreation	Motorized Recreation	Roaded Backcountry	Wild Backcountry	Wilderness	Recommended Wilderness	Special Management Area
15,654	2,537	35,224	111,877	93,847	0	1,057

Acres per Land Use Zone, Santa Catalina Ecosystem Management Area



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Santa Catalina Ecosystem Management Area Santa Catalina Ranger District

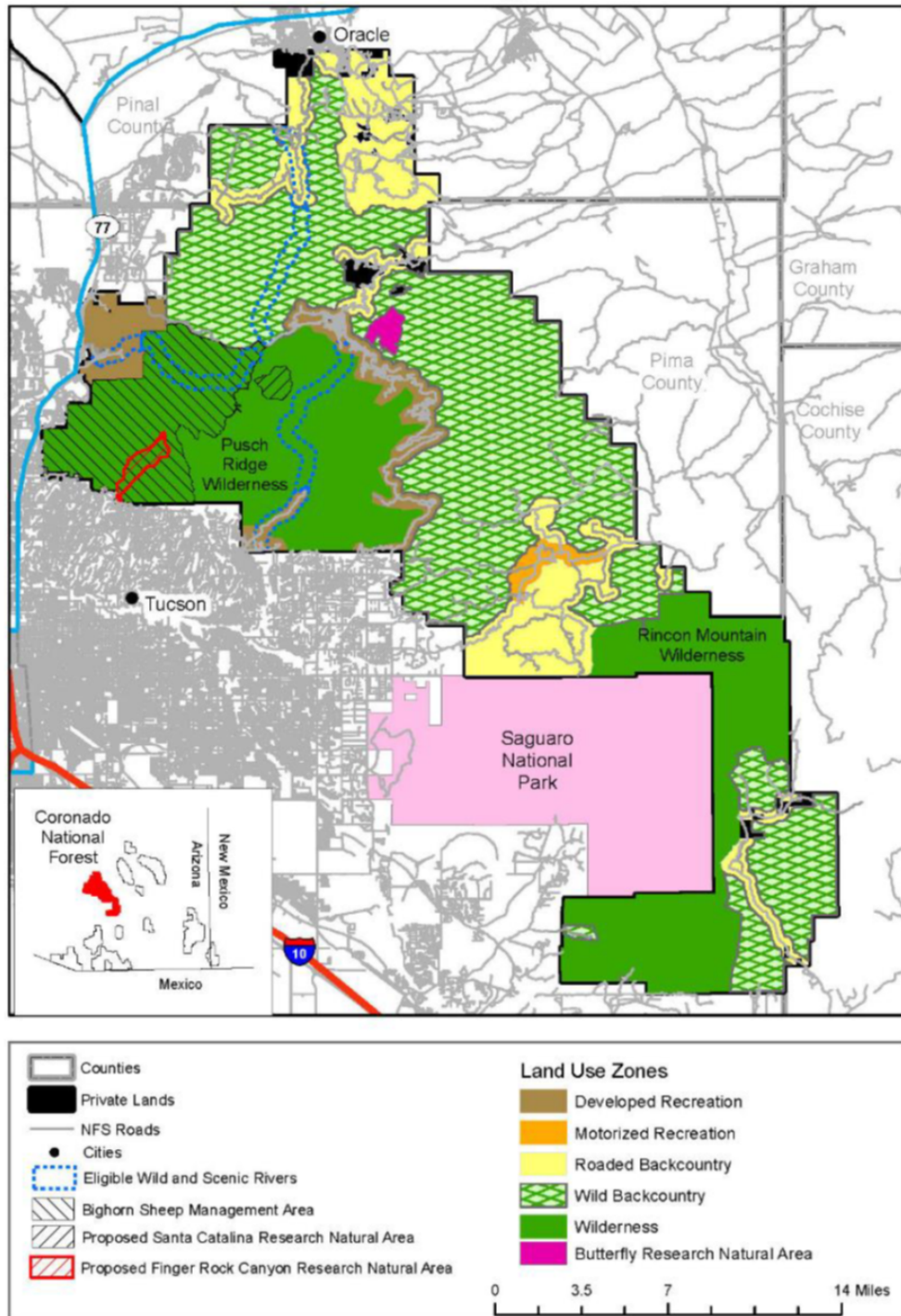


Figure 16. Santa Catalina Ecosystem Management Area land use zones and special areas

Coronado National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan

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Guide to the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum

Primitive: Characterized by essentially unmodified natural environment. Interaction between users is very low and evidence of other users is minimal. Essentially free from evidence of human-induced restrictions and controls. Motorized use within the area is generally not permitted. Very high probability of experiencing solitude, closeness to nature, tranquility, self-reliance, and risk.

Semiprimitive nonmotorized (SPNM): Characterized by a predominantly natural or natural appearing environment. Interaction between users is low, but there is often evidence of other users. The area is managed in such a way that minimum onsite controls and restrictions may be present, but are subtle. Motorized use is generally not permitted. High probability of experiencing solitude, closeness to nature, tranquility, self-reliance, and risk.

Semiprimitive motorized (SPM): Characterized by a predominantly natural or natural appearing environment. Concentration of users is low, but there is often evidence of other users. The area is managed in such a way that minimum onsite controls and restrictions may be present, but are subtle. Motorized use is generally permitted; roads are usually unpaved and often primitive. Moderate probability of experiencing solitude, closeness to nature, tranquility, self-reliance, and risk.

Roaded modified (RM): Characterized by a predominately natural or natural appearing environment. Concentration of users is low, but there is often evidence of other users. The area is managed in such a way that minimum onsite controls and restrictions may be present, but are subtle. Roads are well maintained and provide easy access. Moderate probability of experiencing solitude, closeness to nature, self-reliance, and risk.

Roaded natural (RN): Characterized by a predominantly natural appearing environment with moderate evidence of the sights and sounds of other humans. Areas are usually road corridors where people drive to enjoy the scenery and are often on their way to a developed site (such as campgrounds, picnic area, or visitor center). Facilities harmonize with the natural environment, though interaction between users may be moderate to high. Roads are passable by low-clearance vehicles. Roaded natural areas often have rural and urban recreation opportunity settings along them, where there are opportunities to affiliate with other users in developed sites.

Rural (R): Characterized by a modified natural environment. The natural setting is the attraction, but there are many facilities such as buildings, roads, and signs. The sights and sounds of humans are readily evident, and the interaction between users is often moderate to high. Facilities are often provided for special activities (such as campgrounds, organization camps, and summer homes). Opportunity to observe and affiliate with other users is important, as is convenience of facilities.



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Urban (U): Characterized by a substantially urbanized environment, although the background may have natural appearing elements. Characteristics include intensive use, clustered facilities, large numbers of people, and specialized activities. Examples include major recreation sites (such as large visitor centers) and other human needs (such as astrophysical structures and electronic sites). The opportunity to observe and affiliate with other users is very important, as is convenience of facilities.

Trails and Signage in Wilderness

Desired Conditions

An interconnecting system of trails provides visitors with delineated access into, through, and out of wilderness areas, as well as to certain destinations within each area. Heavily used trails are well marked and maintained, while more remote trails offer a more primitive experience. Trails blend into the landscape and do not dominate the viewshed. User-created trails are rare. Signage is durable and easy to locate without dominating the natural backdrop. Trail and trailhead development emphasizes wilderness recreation and watershed condition while maintaining wilderness resource values. Visitors engage in primitive and unconfined recreation.

Guidelines

1. Trail maintenance should be coordinated to avoid anticipated high use visitor periods to minimize encounters.
2. New trail construction should only be considered if the objective is to enhance wilderness character (to control overuse or limit resource degradation).
3. Bridges should not be constructed or installed.
4. Signs within wilderness areas should provide directional information only, unless a specific need exists for an individual wilderness area.
5. Natural and preferably locally available materials should be used in the construction and signing of trails within wilderness areas, except when specified otherwise for an individual wilderness area.

Pusch Ridge Wilderness

Pusch Ridge is one of the most prominent geographic features of the Santa Catalina Mountains. It forms the backbone of the 56,919-acre Pusch Ridge Wilderness designated in 1978. The Pusch Ridge Wilderness contains seven of the nine major vegetation communities.

Objectives of Pusch Ridge Wilderness

1. Annually, treat 200 to 1,000 acres of exotic invasive grass populations (primarily buffelgrass and fountain grass) on the southwest slopes of the Pusch Ridge Wilderness.



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Standards for Pusch Ridge Wilderness

1. Wilderness areas near Sabino Canyon Recreation Area, Mount Lemmon communication sites, and along the Catalina Highway shall be managed at the highest possible level, with a scenic integrity level of very high.
2. The existing recreation opportunity spectrum classification shall be maintained at semi-primitive nonmotorized in areas near heavily used trailheads and primitive elsewhere.
3. All areas treated for exotic invasive grass populations shall be monitored and re-treated as often as necessary to prevent reestablishment of the target invasive species.

Guidelines for Pusch Ridge Wilderness

1. Recreation facilities should not be developed in the Pusch Peak area.
2. Trailhead parking areas should be designed to passively limit visitor use at levels that maintain wilderness character.
3. Natural appearing materials suitable for a primitive recreation opportunity spectrum setting should be favored. Manmade materials should only be used in the construction and signing of trails when natural materials cannot be obtained at, or transported to, the site.
4. Cross-country travel should be discouraged to limit impacts to vegetation, soils, water, and wildlife.

Rincon Mountain Wilderness

The Rincon Mountain Wilderness was designated in 1984 at the southeastern edge of the Santa Catalina Ecosystem Management Area. This wilderness area spans 36,926 acres along the national forest boundary, and the highest elevation is 7,325 feet. The Rincon Mountain Wilderness contains six of the nine major vegetation communities. The Rincon Mountain Wilderness is contiguous with the larger Saguaro Wilderness, which is administered by the National Park Service as part of Saguaro National Park-East.

Guideline for Rincon Mountain Wilderness

1. Trailhead parking areas should be designed to prevent motorized trespass beyond the wilderness boundary.

Eligible Wild, Scenic, and Recreational Rivers

There are no designated wild, scenic, or recreational rivers on the Coronado National Forest. However, in 1993, all rivers on the Coronado National Forest were evaluated to determine their eligibility as wild, scenic, or recreational rivers. This evaluation resulted in 16 river segments being eligible for designation. In 2008, the 16 river segments were reevaluated and all were determined still to be eligible. These 16 segments will be managed to maintain their eligibility. Table 12 (next page) displays the potential classification and outstanding remarkable values for each eligible segment.



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Portions of Canada del Oro (Recreation and Wild classifications), Romero Canyon (Recreation and Wild classifications), Sabino Canyon (Recreational and Wild classification), have been determined eligible in the planning area.

Objectives for Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers

Wild rivers are free of impoundments and free flowing. The shoreline is essentially primitive with little or no evidence of human activity. The area is inaccessible except by trail and no developed recreation facilities exist. The water quality meets or exceeds State standards.

Scenic rivers are free of impoundments and free flowing. The shoreline is largely primitive and undeveloped, and there is no substantial evidence of human activity. Evidence of human activities generally diminishes over time. Roads may reach or bridge the river. Improvements that occur are minimally intrusive in the landscape.

Recreation rivers are generally readily accessible by road or trail. Encounters with people are expected and recreation opportunities vary depending on their compatibility with the outstandingly remarkable value of the eligible segment. Vegetation management is used to enhance recreation river values. Improvements (such as primitive roads, trails, bridges, fences, or signs) may dominate the landscape. Facilities are visually complementary with the landscape. Roads and trails provide access within the river corridor consistent with protection and enhancement of scenic, cultural/historic, wildlife, and fish outstandingly remarkable values, and protection of soil and water quality. The transportation system supports interpretation, recreation, and resource management activities.

Standards for Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers

1. The conditions that support the classification and outstandingly remarkable values will be maintained when implementing projects.

Research Natural Areas, Botanical, Zoological, and Other Special Areas

Research natural areas and botanical and zoological areas are designated to ensure protection of specific biological and zoological communities. Research natural areas are areas that the Forest Service has designated to be permanently protected and maintained in natural condition, so they may serve as experimental research controls and monitoring sites for the particular ecosystem they represent and used for education.

There are three existing research natural areas on the Santa Catalina Ranger District: Butterfly Peak, and Santa Catalina Research Natural Areas. In the 1986 plan, it was proposed that the Santa Catalina Research Natural Area would be reduced from 4,040 acres to 634 acres, but this reduced area was never established. The revised plan proposes one new research natural area—Finger Rock Canyon—which falls almost entirely within designated wilderness, but this has not yet been established.



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Desired Conditions for Special Areas

All special areas are characterized by generally unmodified environments in which unique natural features are preserved. Each special area provides an example of one or more unique features within the Coronado National Forest. Scenic conditions are natural, unaltered, and wholly intact. Landscape character and sense of place are evident at the highest possible level. Research and monitoring activities do not disturb archaeological sites.

Research natural areas have excellent examples of the ecological features for which they were designated, with little evidence of human activity or disturbance. Visitor access and use occurs at environmentally acceptable levels to maintain the research values of the research natural area. Special use permits within these areas are inappropriate unless they are related to research for which the area is designated. Fire management mimics natural fire processes and is compatible with ongoing research.

Botanical areas protect the plants and plant communities for which they are designated. Plants and plant communities within these areas are resilient and are not negatively impacted by human activities. Nonmotorized recreation is allowed on a limited basis on designated trails to protect soil conditions and hydrologic flow. New trails are discouraged.

Zoological areas protect the unique wildlife and associated habitat for which they are designated. These areas contain unique or significant animals, animal groups, or animal communities, habitat, location, life history, ecology, environment, rarity, or other features.

Arizona National Scenic Trail

Desired Conditions

The Arizona National Scenic Trail provides both short and long distance nonmotorized recreation opportunities in mainly remote and primitive settings representative of the dramatic natural landscapes and varied vegetation of Arizona. Along most of the trail, infrastructure and facilities are few and are constructed in such a way as to be compatible with the scenic, natural, historic, and cultural qualities for which the trail was established. In remote areas, the sights and sounds of roads, motorized trails, utility corridors, and other facilities are rarely encountered. Near towns and developed recreation facilities, the Arizona Trail may become a more accessible and highly developed route with access to amenities via connector trails.

Recreation and other activities on or adjacent to the Arizona Trail do not negatively impact cultural and natural resources, scenic integrity, or the nonmotorized recreation experience. User conflicts are infrequent. Signage, while unobtrusive, is sufficient to help long-distance travelers find nearby developed sites, trailheads, recreation facilities, and drinking water sources. Trailheads are conveniently placed and, where equestrian use is common, sufficient parking space for vehicles pulling trailers exists.



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Guidelines

1. Management actions within ½ mile of the Arizona National Scenic Trail should not result in recreation setting changes from less to more developed unless for the purpose of constructing or improving trail access or trail related facilities
2. Permitted recreation special use authorizations should be managed to protect the desired recreation setting for a nonmotorized trail.
3. New road or motorized trail construction across or adjacent to the Arizona National Scenic Trail should be avoided unless needed for resource protection or to meet statutory requirements, such as mining law or laws to protect public health and safety.
4. Placement of new utility corridors and communication facilities should be avoided by choosing alternate locations or co-located with existing utility corridors and facilities.
5. Utility lines should be buried when feasible to mitigate visual impacts.
6. Forest health projects should be managed to minimize long-term visual impacts within and adjacent to the Arizona National Scenic Trail corridor.
7. Fire on or in the foreground of the Arizona National Scenic Trail should be managed using minimum impact suppression tactics, or other tactics appropriate for the protection of values and resources for which the trail was designated.

The Planning Team

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